

## Egypt seeks return of league HQ

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Egypt has launched a diplomatic effort to move the headquarters of the 22-member Arab League back to Cairo from Tunis amid fears of strong objections by some Arab countries, diplomatic sources reported Sunday. One Arab diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Egypt has sent letters to all Arab states, urging them to support such a motion to be put by Egypt at an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis Saturday. The league's HQ was moved from Cairo, where it was set up in 1945, to Tunis in 1978 after Egypt signed a separate peace treaty with Israel and its league membership suspended. The new move follows Egypt's return to the Arab fold and the reinstatement of its league membership. The foreign ministers meeting in Tunis for their regular biannual session will discuss several issues, including reviewing a new league charter to be presented to Arab heads of state for ratification in the next Arab summit. Baghdad's Al Thawra daily, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Socialist Party, reported Sunday that the Egyptian call will not be on the foreign ministers' agenda. But it said the issue could be raised by Egypt at the two-day meeting.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## GCC debates key Arab issues

**RIYADH (AP)** — Foreign ministers of the six-country Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met Sunday to align a common policy on Arab issues, especially Jordan's call for an emergency Arab summit on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. The meeting was headed by Youssef Ben Alawi, foreign minister of Oman, the year's chairman of the GCC. In an opening address, Alawi said the issue of the Soviet Jewish influx "sent shockwaves through the Arab World, not only because of the complications such immigration will add to the faltering efforts for (Middle East) peacemaking, but because of the real danger it represents for Arab national security." Alawi deplored the bloodbath among warring Lebanese factions in east Beirut, saying the destruction in the Lebanese capital surpassed any witnessed in nearly 15 years of civil war. The Omani minister, who recently visited both Iraq and Iran, said he regretted that despite the desire for peace expressed by the two former warring powers, and despite the U.N. attempts, a deadlock continued in the attempts to produce a lasting peace.

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## National Guidance Council meets

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The newly reconstituted National Guidance Council held a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin and discussed the broad guidelines for the country's information policy. The council elected Upper House of Parliament member Ishaq Al Farhan as vice-chairman.

## China: Soviet influx blocks peace

**SANAA (R)** — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, on a visit to North Yemen, said Sunday the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel was an obstacle to peace in the Middle East, Radio Sanaa said. The radio said Qian also blasted Israel's "continued intransigence towards efforts to reach a just settlement to the Palestinian cause."

## Arafat holds talks in Algeria

**ALGIERS (R)** — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat discussed the emigration of Soviet Jews and the Lebanese crisis Sunday with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. An official Algerian source said Arafat had discussed the emigration of Soviet Jews ahead of an Arab League mission to Moscow to discuss the matter. Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali is among Arab foreign ministers due to visit Moscow next week to try to persuade the Soviet Union to curtail Jewish emigration to Israel.

## Atlantis lands

**EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (R)** — The U.S. space shuttle Atlantis touched down safely Sunday after completing a secret military mission during which space experts say it deployed a billion-dollar spy satellite. The five-man, all-military crew guided the 80-tonne craft to a pinpoint landing on a dry lake bed in the Mojave Desert at 10:08 a.m. (1808 GMT) after four days in space.

## Rebel rockets kill four in Kabul

**ISLAMABAD (R)** — Guerrillas fighting the Afghan government fired rockets into the capital Kabul for the fourth day running Sunday, killing four people, the official Kabul Radio said. Five surface-to-surface missiles hit residential areas, also wounding seven people and causing economic damage, said the broadcast. The Pakistani capital Islamabad Sunday's attack took to eight the death toll from daily rebel rocketing on Kabul reported by the Afghan authorities since Thursday.

## V.P. Singh quits as party leader

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Prime Minister V.P. Singh has resigned as the president of his Janata Dal party to keep his promise not to hold two public posts, a party spokesman said Sunday. Spokesman Jaipal Reddy told reporters Singh resigned late Saturday at a party meeting called to discuss alleged rigging by a top party leader during a Feb. 27 by-election.

## Thatcher 'liberal' plans to resign

**LONDON (R)** — In fresh blows to beleaguered Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the lone "liberal" in her cabinet Sunday announced plans to resign and opinion polls showed her Conservative government was more unpopular than ever. Thatcher already faced mounting protests over a new tax to finance local councils which will squeeze family budgets hit by high interest rates and inflation of nearly eight per cent. Welsh Secretary Peter Walker, a minister since Thatcher came to power in 1979, said he would leave the government before the next general election because he wanted to spend more time with his family and concentrate on business. His decision was likely to bolster opposition charges that the government is in disarray and out of touch with even its own supporters.

## King, Badran, Lawzi and Qasem meet visiting parliamentary delegation

# India backs Jordan's stand on Soviet influx

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

**AMMAN** — India Sunday voiced its total support for Jordan's view that the massive influx of Soviet Jewish emigrants to Israel poses threats to security and stability in the Middle East in addition to serious dangers for the Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Indian position was affirmed during a series of meetings a visiting Indian parliamentary delegation held here with His Majesty King Hussein and senior government leaders, including Prime Minister Mndar Badran, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem. According to the Indian ambassador to Jordan who attended the talks, the delegation, headed by India's Lower House (Lok Sabha) Speaker Rabi Ray, reiterated New Delhi's shared view with Jordan that no peace could be achieved in the Middle East without a just settlement which guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Speaker Ray also reassured his Jordanian hosts that the change in government in New Delhi after the last general elections did not mean any shift or adverse impact on the "traditionally strong links between India and Jordan." Ambassador Gajendra Singh said. The King was scheduled to receive the delegation Monday but the audience was brought forward to adjust to his departure Monday morning on visits to France and Britain.

In Sunday's meeting, the King paid tribute to relations with In-

dia and emphasised the need for further enhancing economic cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. Prime Minister Badran in the delegation, which includes five members of the two houses of the Indian parliament representing almost all leading parties, reviewed Indo-Jordanian trade and economic cooperation and expressed hope that several pending projects would be implemented soon to further boost bilateral ties, according to Singh. Badran extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh to visit Jordan.

On the political front, Badran and Ray discussed the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and agreed that it posed a grave danger to peace and stability in the Middle East, Petra said. They viewed the Soviet Jewish influx as being bound to heighten tension and will be an element of instability in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Petra said.

In his meeting with the Indian team, Speaker Lawzi discussed Indo-Jordanian ties in various fields and also paid tribute to India's role in supporting liberation movements and the just cause of the Palestinians. Lawzi explained Jordan's position towards Arab-Israeli peace efforts and reiterated the Arab demand for the implementation of the pertinent United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem.

Ray reaffirmed India's support for Arab and Palestinian causes and also expressed New Delhi's firm desire to maintain and further strengthen ties with Jordan, Petra said. The same themes were also discussed with the Indian delegation by Foreign Minister Qasem in a 75-minute meeting. Ambassador Singh said. Qasem briefly reviewed the evolution of the Middle East conflict and explained Jordan's position, he said.

The Jordanian side explained its "anxiety and fears over the Soviet Jewish influx," which not only threatens to undermine ongoing

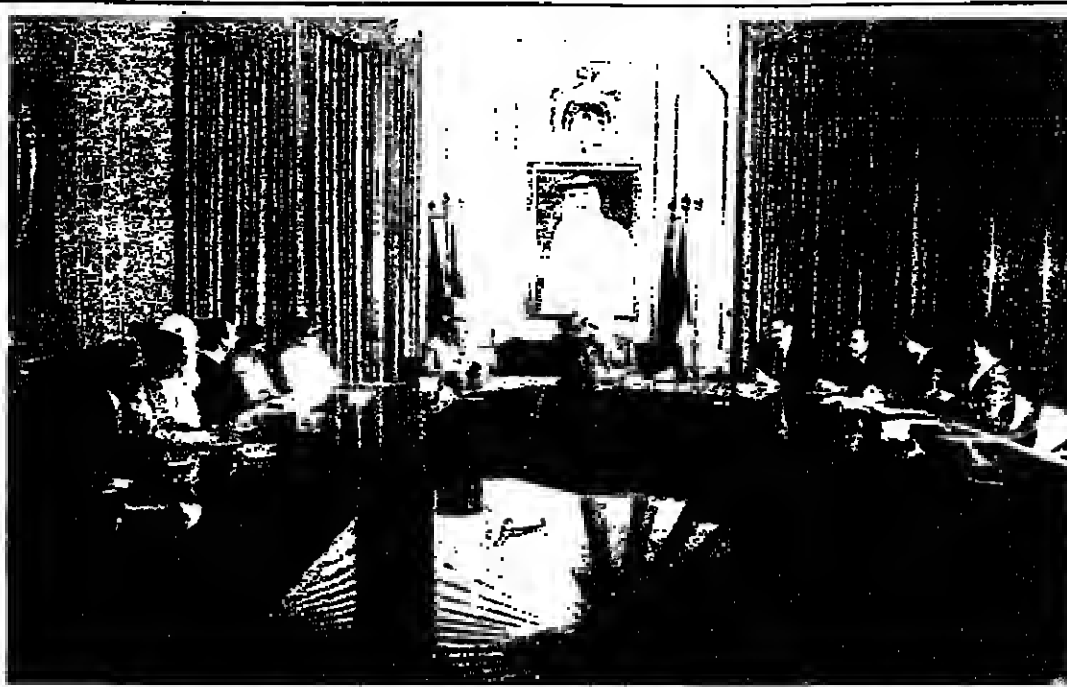
peace efforts but also presents a grave danger to the Arab region, the ambassador said. For its part, the Indian side "voiced its full support for the Jordanian position" and said that New Delhi shared the "Jordanian perceptions of the Arab-Israeli conflict," according to the ambassador. India's reaffirmation of its position on the immigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel and Arab and Palestinian fears that the bulk of them could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip comes at a time when Arab states are trying to mobilise international efforts to counter the threats.

Ray held talks with his Jordanian counterpart and host, Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar, Saturday, and called for a Middle East peace settlement based on recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He further elaborated on the theme in a speech delivered at a banquet hosted by Arar Sunday night.

He reiterated India's support for an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Arab unity, he said, was "vital for the struggle to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East." Recalling that India has always been a supporter of Arab and Palestinian causes, he said: "There can be no peace without justice. The illegal occupation of Arab territories must be ended. The Palestinians have an inalienable right to self-determination. They have a right to their homeland. These rights should be recognised."

In his meetings here, Ray also raised the issue of the Indo-Pakistani dispute over Kashmir and said New Delhi was keen to "maintain good neighbourly relations on the basis of past accords and agreements," according to Ambassador Singh. The delegation arrived here Saturday and will leave Wednesday.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets with a delegation representing the Indian parliament

## Bush: Aid to Israel will be influenced by settlement policy

**RANCHO MIRAGE, California (Agencies)** — President George Bush has said that U.S. aid to Israel would be influenced by whether Tel Aviv allows new settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem," Bush told a news conference after meeting with Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. "I will conduct that policy as it is firm."

"And it will be shaped in whatever decisions we make to see whether people comply with that policy." The president had been asked about Secretary of State James Baker's statement that U.S. aid to Israel would be conditioned on a halt to Jewish settlement of the occupied territories.

Baker told a congressional committee Thursday that \$400 million in loan guarantees to help build housing for Soviet Jewish immigrants should be linked to

Israeli promises it not be used for new or expanded settlements in the occupied territories.

Israel contends it has no policy of directing immigrants to the occupied territories, and government leaders denounced Baker's proposal Friday.

Bush's press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, told reporters Saturday that the president's statements represented nothing new. He said Bush himself has told Shamir two times that new settlements must end in the occupied territories.

But when Bush, and later Fitzwater, were asked directly whether the United States was linking aid to the settlement question, they seemed reluctant to put it specifically in those terms.

"I will just reiterate that the policy right here — we are not going to look favourably upon new settlements," said Bush.

"We haven't expressed it in that policy sense directly," said Fitzwater. "We don't believe the settlements in the West Bank and

Gaza are conducive to the peace process."

## Migrant 'safety not guaranteed'

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official was quoted Sunday as saying the safety of Soviet Jewish migrants who settle in the occupied territories cannot be guaranteed.

"No one can check the behaviour of the Palestinian citizen in the occupied territories," Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, told the London-based Asharq Al Awsat newspaper.

"No one can guarantee the results of this provocation... the Palestinian sees with his own eyes a person coming from Leningrad or Kiev or anywhere in the world to settle in his home just because he is a Jew."

"And he (the Palestinian) is thrown out of his house," said Abbas.

## Mandela reassures whites of ANC's respect for culture

**HARARE (Agencies)** — Nelson Mandela offered white South Africans a strong reassurance Sunday that they had nothing to fear from an African National Congress (ANC) government.

The ANC would respect the many separate cultures of South Africa and would allow each community to run its own schools, Mandela said at a rally in the Zimbabwean capital.

"We are aware of their (white) fear... that blacks are going to try and wreak vengeance upon them, that liberation in South Africa will mean not only the end of white rule, but also the domination of whites by blacks."

"We deny this," Mandela told about 10,000 people who had waited up to six hours for his delayed arrival in Harare's national sports stadium.

It was his first speech on ANC policy since a two-day meeting of the movement's policy-making National Executive Committee in Lusaka Thursday and Friday.

He is expected to head an ANC delegation later this month in the first direct talks between the South African government and



Nelson Mandela

the guerrilla movement it revived for 30 years.

Mandela, 71, was freed Feb. 11 after 27 years in South African prisons for plotting to overthrow white rule.

Mandela received an emotional welcome at Harare airport from President Robert Mugabe, the former guerrilla chieftain who became Zimbabwe's first black

ruler.

Mugabe, who had long pressed for Mandela's release, embraced the ANC activist on the tarmac as thousands of people cheered to the throng of tribal drummers and schoolchildren in feather headdresses chanted, "We're going to Pretoria to fight."

"You're not a stranger," Mugabe declared to Mandela. "You've come home where the 10 million people stand solidly behind the people of South Africa in the unrelenting struggle."

Mandela said he regarded Zimbabwe as a second home and he praised Mugabe's statesmanship.

Mandela also received the Freedom of Harare Award from Mayor Simon Chikwavaire at a town house ceremony. Three others had previously received the honour — Mugabe, the late Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu and Nigerian head of state Ibrahim Babangida.

Mugabe, addressing a political rally of his ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) party, declared Monday a holiday in honour of the ANC leader.

## Hrawi begins visit to S. Arabia

# Shaky truce holds in Beirut amid papal mediation reports

**BEIRUT (Agencies)** — A shaky ceasefire held in the Christian enclave Sunday as the Vatican was reportedly mediating in the Christian showdown to discourage the Syrian army from entering the conflict.

Government officials said the Vatican sent an emissary to convince renegade general Michel Aoun and militia chief Samir Geagea to patch up their differences to avoid a Syrian military intervention to quell the fighting.

Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi arrived in Saudi Arabia, the first stop on a three-country Arab tour. He will also visit Morocco and Algeria. The three are working under Arab League auspices on a peace plan for Lebanon.

Hrawi is seeking support for an unannounced plan to end the fighting which has killed 766 people and wounded 2,088 since it broke out Jan. 30. He has warned in the past that he will ask Syria to intervene.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Hrawi was met by King Fahd on arrival at Hafr Al Batin, a

military air base on the kingdom's border with Iraq and Kuwait.

In Beirut, hundreds of exhausted families, carrying their most valuable belongings in plastic bags and suitcases and picking their way past land mines, left the neighbourhood of Ashrafieh after a night of sporadic machine-gun and artillery fire.

Aoun's troops and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen have sliced east Beirut into a patchwork of frontlines that can only be crossed on foot during lulls. "We are fleeing before they lose their senses again," Khalil Antoun said as he and his family hurried from LF-held Ashrafieh into Aoun-controlled territory.

The LF militia, in a communique, accused Aoun's gunners of trying to enforce a food blockade on its two isolated pockets in east Beirut. Aoun's command withheld comment on the report.

Government sources in west Beirut said the Vatican dispatched Monsignor Alberto Sozzi for talks with Aoun and Geagea on a solid settlement to their dispute over the 800-kilometre Christian

enclave.

One source said, "Sozzi's message to Aoun and Geagea is that the Vatican will not be able to prevent a Syrian military intervention in the Christian areas if their clashes continued and if such an intervention was requested by President Hrawi."

Officials in the Christian enclave refused to comment on Sozzi's mission or even confirm his arrival at the port of Jounieh.

Christian political sources said a mediation team that started extensive talks with both Aoun and Geagea Saturday resumed its contacts Sunday to find ways to implement an agreement announced last month.

The plan, which was not carried out because both Aoun and Geagea had different interpretations, calls for ending all military action and organising the armed presence of the LF.

The sources said the new peace drive, backed by pressure from France and the Vatican on both leaders, followed the apparent failure of Aoun's military campaign

## Regional polls seen as key test for Soviet reformists, hardliners

**MOSCOW (Agencies)** — Millions of Soviets from the Polish border to the Bering Strait voted Sunday in what President Mikhail S. Gorbachev called a battle between reformers and entrenched bureaucrats for the country's Slav heartland.

Almost 150 million voters were registered to choose among more than 11,000 candidates for 1,800 seats in the republic legislatures of the Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian republics. Thousands of seats in local governing councils also were being contested.

No results were expected until Tuesday in the three republics that make up the vast majority of the country's territory and contain more than two-thirds of its 290 million people.

"I think it is a battle," Gor-

bachev told reporters after voting Sunday in the Lenin Hills area of Moscow, "but I am convinced that perestroika will win."

"Our elections involve a new type of people, people who have been given new impulses from perestroika," Gorbachev said. "The essence of it is that it is a people's referendum on perestroika."

The TASS news agency reported a strong turnout in the Far East region, where in several districts more than half of the registered voters had been to polling stations before noon. Polls were open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time in each of the 12 time zones across the country.

The balloting came in a period of political tension as Gorbachev's reforms reached a critical stage. In recent weeks he has

pressed the Communist Party to give up its monopoly on power and pressed for a new, more powerful presidency. Hundreds of thousands of Soviets have turned out for pro-democracy rallies.

Gorbachev was not a candidate in the election, but hundreds of long-time party and government officials were.

In Russia alone, the ballot contained 25 heads of regional Communist Party organisations and 36 chairmen or deputy chairmen of autonomous regions within the giant republic.

In the days before the balloting official newspapers were full of stories of campaign tricks and pork-barrel politics as officials sought to avoid the kind of embarrassing defeats they suffered last year in balloting for the

national Congress of People's Deputies.

Gorbachev also said Sunday he was ready to accept nomination as the Soviet Union's first executive president.

Gorbachev said the Soviet people were looking for strong leadership in a period of economic, social and political turmoil.

"I will not put myself forward... but if I am put forward I will not avoid it. This is certain," said Gorbachev, speaking of the new executive presidency.

Creation of the new position has been agreed by the Supreme Soviet, the standing parliament, but has still to be approved by the Congress of People's Deputies.

"In my opinion, it would not be understandable to our people if I used the current situation and began to withdraw," said Gor-

bachev who personally piloted the proposal for a stronger presidency through the Supreme Soviet Feb. 27.

The holder of the proposed new post will be able to declare martial law or a state of emergency, appoint or remove the prime minister and other officials and declare war in case of attack — greater powers than those enjoyed by President Gorbachev now.

His supporters say the executive powers are needed to meet the colossal challenges facing Soviet society.

But Gorbachev's critics — both Communist conservatives and radicals — counter that the new post could establish a legal basis for virtual dictatorship.

Gorbachev's backers say greater powers would enable him to

handle more effectively the waves of ethnic unrest, political division and the huge economic problems besetting the Kremlin.

Gorbachev said he was optimistic the Communist Party, which only last month proposed dropping its constitutionally-guaranteed monopoly of power, would emerge from the elections with a strong representation.

He played down reports of rifts in the party and said its moves to surrender its monopoly on power would not weaken it badly.

"I think the Communists will be rather widely represented," said Gorbachev, but he was not prepared to predict the party's final percentage of Sunday's vote.

"The party is a powerful political force. We cannot ignore it. It is the duty of Communists to renew it," he said.

## Likud ministers revolt against U.S. plan

**TEL AVIV (R)** — Cabinet ministers of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud party publicly rebelled Sunday against a U.S. call for a quick Israeli decision on opening historic talks with the Palestinians.

The open battle inside Likud, the dominant partner in Israel's coalition government, undermined earlier reports that Shamir was ready to approve Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

"With all due respect to the United States, we don't decide the fate of our country under pressure," said Transport Minister Moshe Katsav, who is regarded as close to Shamir.

"The discussion might start this week but it certainly will not end," he told Israel Radio, indicating the opposition inside Likud was far greater than earlier portrayed.

Israel Television reported Saturday that Shamir was ready to join his coalition partners in the Labour Party in accepting the U.S. proposals. Labour had set a deadline of Wednesday for progress on the proposal.

With Likud members in open revolt, Shamir joined the top three other Israeli politicians — including two ministers from the Labour Party — at a special meeting Sunday afternoon to discuss the U.S. proposal.

"I believe that we are facing a real chance to start a process of peace," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, of the Labour Party, told a gathering of foreign Jews before attending the meeting with Shamir.

But Rabin again emphasised his preference for working inside the current broad coalition headed by Shamir rather than trying to form a Labour-dominated government.

Shamir, faced with a public request from Washington for a decision, scheduled meetings stretching into Wednesday with both supporters and opponents of the Cairo negotiations.

"There is no way to know which way the decision is going to go," Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner told Reuters. Before the extent of the revolt in Likud became clear he had predicted a decision by Wednesday.

Labour leader Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, who has called for swift action on peace talks, emerged from a Sunday morning cabinet meeting to complain about the indecision.

"Within an hour's time we have had two different versions," Peres told reporters. "One is for and one is against."

The debate inside Likud, which raged for more than four hours Saturday night, was set to resume Monday.

Israeli objections to the U.S.-sponsored talks in Cairo, which are to lead to Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, have centred on the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

The proposal by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would allow a role for any registered Palestinian resident in the occupied territories.

That would provide for participation by Palestinians who are allowed to return from Israeli-imposed exile. Registered residents of the occupied lands who also work or live in Arab Jerusalem could also take part.

Critics believe the inclusion of anyone with ties to Jerusalem undermines Israeli control of the whole city and fear talks with expelled Palestinians could lead to negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

David Levy, a Likud cabinet minister who argued against the talks at the Saturday party meeting, called the process "a game of betrayal."

Peres said shortly before Sunday's meeting of the "forum of four" — two leaders from each of the main parties — that he would hold Likud to the Wednesday ultimatum to put U.S. formulas to a vote.



## Iranian team arrives in Beirut U.S., Iran reportedly hold talks on hostages

DUBAI (R) — An Iranian political source said Sunday that Iranian and U.S. officials have completed a round of direct talks in Europe on efforts to free Western hostages in Lebanon.

He said Iranian negotiators who met four or five times with the Americans in West Germany, were hopeful they would meet again soon.

The source, close to senior government officials, said the Iranian team was led by a director from the European desk at the ministry. He did not identify the U.S. officials involved.

President George Bush Thursday denied any secret talks with Iran and ruled out trading the hostages.

"There are no secret talks going on," he told reporters. "I have read some of the most ridiculous stories, printed with anonymous sources, failing to do anything other than repeat rumours."

A senior Muslim militia official in Beirut told Reuters Wednesday that the United States and Iran had held secret talks on the issue.

The militia official said senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and an American negotiator met in New York in December. A second round of talks took place in Geneva in January, he said.

The Iranian source said Tehran's team in West Germany included negotiators previously involved in indirect contact with Washington through Pakistan. They were trying last summer to defuse a potential crisis after a pro-Iranian group in Lebanon

said it had executed U.S. hostage William Higgins.

The Iranian source expressed optimism about contacts in West Germany, saying Tehran had dropped its previous insistence on linking freedom for the hostages with U.S. concessions.

He said talks were continuing with Lebanese Kidnap groups holding 17 missing Westerners, eight of them Americans.

During the Higgins crisis last year, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani offered to help free hostages if Washington released Iranian funds frozen after the Islamic revolution in 1979. In recent weeks, Iran's top judge, the pro-government Tehran Times newspaper and an influential pro-Iranian Muslim cleric in Lebanon have all denounced hostage-taking as harmful to the image of Islam in the West.

Iranian political analysts said Rafsanjani had persuaded many of the anti-Western clergy, including some who disagree with his other policies, that Iran must solve the hostage problem to avoid isolation.

They said growing domestic resentment against continued economic stagnation had done much to change Tehran's view.

Western diplomatic said the worldwide wave of democratic reforms made Iran look increasingly like a political sideshow.

The U.S. government has been sensitive to avoid any suggestion of trading for hostages since the failure in 1986 of secret attempts to swap arms to Iran for the captives.

Meanwhile, a team of Iranian officials has arrived in Beirut to organise the release of one or more of the Western hostages held in Lebanon, the Independent on Sunday newspaper reported.

Quoting Lebanese and Iranian exile sources in London and Paris, the London newspaper said the team was believed to have been sent by Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is eager to restore Tehran's relations with the West.

The newspaper quoted one exile who took part in previous hostage negotiations as saying he expected a release within days but cited others as saying a final decision depended on the outcome of political fighting in Tehran.

The newspaper said talks had been held in Moscow, Ankara and Geneva between Iranian officials led by Rafsanjani's brother Mahmoud and former U.S. government officials, including former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

The Independent on Sunday quoted British officials as saying they had no knowledge of talks going on, but they acknowledged that an approach had been made some weeks ago offering to open negotiations for the release of Terry Waite, the Church of England envoy, and mentioning a ransom figure of \$20 million.



Eritrean refugees arrive in Sudan to escape possible starvation after failure of crops in northern Ethiopia

## Ethiopian army surrounded in Asmara, Eritrean leader says

ABU DHABI (R) — An Eritrean guerrilla leader said Sunday that the only Ethiopian government troops left in the province were surrounded and a final attack was looming.

"If Ethiopia does not agree to our conditions for resuming peace negotiations then there will be a military showdown," Mohammed Omar Mahmoud, head of the Foreign Relations Office of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) told Reuters.

Mahmoud arrived in the United Arab Emirates in the last few days from Eritrea's port city of Massawa, where the EPLF captured the town in February.

The fall of Massawa, confirmed by foreign rebel workers who visited the city, cuts the government's road link to the provincial capital Asmara and the nearby town of Keren.

"The latest offensive has created a new situation in our struggle. About 100,000 Ethiopian soldiers in Keren and Asmara are effectively under siege," Mahmoud said in an interview.

"The link with Massawa has been cut. Their only way out is through Asmara airport, which does not have the capacity to meet their needs," he added.

With around 400,000 inhabitants, Asmara is Ethiopia's second largest city after Addis

Ababa.

"We prefer a peace settlement if there is a possibility... because we suffer the worst from war," Mahmoud said.

"But given present local, regional and international conditions we believe a military solution to the problem is possible."

He said those conditions included a growth in EPLF strength, an increase in rebel military pressure against government troops in other areas, and a decline in Soviet assistance to Addis Ababa.

Mahmoud said 40,000 government troops had been killed, wounded or captured in the three-week battle for Massawa. Among those captured was the port city's Ethiopian commander Major-General Talhoun, he said.

Rebels in northern Ethiopia said Sunday they would support an independent relief effort to feed famine victims in besieged government areas.

Teklemichael Wolde Giorgis of the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA), the relief arm of the EPLF, told Reuters that food supplies for people in two government-controlled cities could pass through the Massawa Port and other areas now held by the rebels.

"We are ready to cooperate in any way possible to get relief to people, not only in areas which

we control, but in government areas, too," Teklemichael said.

Teklemichael said the rebels would also support an airlift of food for 400,000 people stranded in Asmara.

More than four million people, most of them in Eritrea and neighbouring Tigray provinces, face possible starvation this year after failure of crops because of a drought, exacerbated by the war.

Teklemichael said Massawa Port could not be reopened immediately, but added that dockside cranes were intact and there were no sunken ships blocking the port.

He said the rebels would support relief operations to government-held areas only if the food was transported, distributed and monitored by independent organisations without interference from either the EPLF or the government.

He accused the government of handing out sacks of United Nations relief food to army and militia troops and violating international air agreements by using the civilian Ethiopian Airlines to transport troops and arms from Addis Ababa to Asmara.

Teklemichael said fuel shortages were already forcing the government to impose electricity blackouts, cut water supplies and ration petrol to civilians in Asmara.

## Sudan, Libya to sign integration agreement for merger in 4 years

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan and Libya have agreed to sign integration pacts to pave the way for a merger in four years, realising Muammar Qaddafi's long-cherished dream of uniting with Africa's biggest country.

Sudanese military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir said Saturday night the pacts would achieve political, economic and security integration between the two neighbours.

He told the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) after returning from a two-day visit to Libya — his third visit there since June — the two countries would merge in four years.

He said the proposed pacts provided for a joint supreme council, a joint ministerial body and a joint permanent secretariat.

"The proposal will be effective after its approval by the legislative bodies in both countries," he

said.

Libyan-style popular committees set up in Sudan last year would be upgraded to legislative bodies to which the pact would be submitted for approval, he added, but did not elaborate.

Bashir dissolved parliament after seizing power in a coup in June last year.

He said Libyans would be allowed to visit Sudan without visas, a right so far granted only to Egyptians.

The Sudanese leader has repeatedly called for a merger between his country, Libya and Egypt.

He called Saturday, during a rally in Tripoli, for Arab unity from the Atlantic to the Gulf and said his junta would not rest until this was achieved.

Egypt has shown no interest in Bashir's unity calls. Last year it joined Iraq, Jordan and North

Yemen in a regional grouping called the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Diplomats in Khartoum said Sudan's need for economic and military aid from Libya have been behind the merger announcement.

Libya has since the overthrow of Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri in 1985 been a main source of outside support for the Sudanese army in its fight against southern rebels.

It has also sold Sudan oil on concessionary terms.

Arab unity is high on the political agenda for Qaddafi, who has on several occasions called for Sudan and Libya to merge.

Last year he urged Libya's partners in the Maghreb Union — Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania — to allow other countries, including Sudan, to join.

## Turkey blames Greek Cypriots for failure

ANKARA (R) — Turkey says the refusal by Greek Cypriots to accept political equality for Turkish Cypriots was the main reason for the failure of top-level talks in New York on reunifying the divided island.

"The basic reason for the failure is the fact that Greek Cypriots were not willing for serious and meaningful talks and have refused to accept the political equality of the Turkish Cypriots," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued late Saturday.

Week-long talks at the United Nations between Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş on reunifying the island, divided since 1974, collapsed Friday over the issue of self-determination for the Turks.

"Denktash has gone to the talks prepared to find a solution based on the equal partnership of the two peoples but his stand has again not been reciprocated by (Cypriot President George) Vassiliou," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

Denktash heads the breakaway "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus," proclaimed nine years after Turkish troops invaded the island in 1974 when the military junta then ruling Greece engineered a short-lived coup in Nicosia.

The state, comprising nearly 40 per cent of the island, is recognised only by Turkey, which has about 29,000 troops there.

"Turkey hopes for a continuation of the talks. But for that it would be useful if the Greek

Cypriot side abandoned its intransigent attitude it displayed once more in New York," the Foreign Ministry statement added.

Vassiliou said in New York that the main stumbling block in the talks, which included U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, was Denktash's insistence for the first time that the Turkish Cypriots be considered a people, with the right of self-determination, instead of a community.

The talks were aimed at forming a bi-communal federation in Cyprus, as mandated by the U.N. Security Council.

Denktash said in New York: "You cannot talk federation if there is no right to self-determination."

## Kuwaiti prince meets pro-democracy group

KUWAIT (R) — Leaders of Kuwait's pro-democracy movement have held more talks with the Crown Prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, on their demand for the return of parliament dissolved in 1986.

Sheikh Saad, who is also prime minister of strategic Gulf state close to Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, was quoted Sunday as saying the discussions focused on a formula to "safeguard our country and the blessing of security and stability and boost social and national unity."

He said the dialogue Saturday

night with 28 former deputies dealt with "a formula to guarantee the non-repetition of circumstances which led to the failure of the (previous) democratic practice."

The Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, dissolved the parliament, the liveliest in the Arab World, at the height of the Iran-Iraq war. He cited a foreign conspiracy to destroy the state.

The pro-democracy movement staged seven rallies in December and January. Police used tear gas, batons and stun grenades to break up the final one, attended

by some 6,000 people.

The Emir in January called for an end to the rallies and offered a dialogue with the ex-deputies and other political groups.

Sheikh Saad first met the former deputies on Feb. 7. Ahmad Saddoun, speaker of the dissolved parliament and acting head of the movement, said then that the crown prince showed great keenness to make that meeting a success.

He declined to comment on Saturday's meeting but said former deputies would meet Sunday to assess the latest talks.

## Iraqi daily criticises U.S. policies

BAGHDAD (AP) — A leading Iraqi newspaper Sunday attacked what it described as "the Yankee interventionist policies" in the Arab World and called for the withdrawal of American forces from the Gulf.

In a commentary rare for its strong wording, the army daily Al Qadisiya said the United States' policy on the Arab World was still characterised by "conspiracies, threats and means of invasion."

"Go back home Yankee, was the slogan raised by all peoples of the world... and because the

Yankees don't believe in slogans these people have to resort to their own potential to force the Yankees out," the chief editor of the paper said in his editorial.

President Saddam Hussein called last month on the United States to pull out its force of seven ships from the Gulf, down from 27 at the peak of attacks on neutral shipping during the Gulf war.

Saddam said they were no longer needed after a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire halted the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988. Talks for a formal peace treaty

have deadlocked. Iran has also called for the U.S. withdrawal.

The U.S. government has said it intends to keep the naval forces it has operated in the Gulf since 1949.

Iraq restored diplomatic relations with Washington in October 1984 after a 17-year rupture.

"As long as the Americans insist to play the Yankee role and support the crime of deporting a whole people from their own land and installing others in their place, we are allowed to say frankly that America is living out of this advanced age," the paper added.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### Najibullah welcomes Saudi mediation

ABU DHABI (R) — Afghan President Najibullah was quoted Sunday as saying he would welcome any offer by Saudi Arabia to mediate a peace settlement in his country. "We believe Saudi authorities enjoy a vast prestige in the Islamic World and can help Afghan people to end fighting and bring about peace," Al Khaleej newspaper quoted him as saying in an interview in Kabul. "If Saudi Arabia and Gulf states showed this desire then we would welcome it." Saudi Arabia and Gulf states support the Mujahideen, Afghan rebels fighting to topple the Soviet-backed Afghan government. Saudi Arabia, although it has no ties with Moscow, hosted inconclusive talks in December 1988 between the Soviet authorities and the rebels. Moscow withdrew the last of its troops from Afghanistan in February 1989.

### Pakistani minister visits Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Pakistani Defence Minister Ghulam Sarwar Cheema arrived in Baghdad Sunday for talks with his Iraqi counterpart General Abdul-Jabbar Shamsal. Cheema said his visit aimed to boost ties between the countries but gave no details. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. Pakistan mediated between Iran and Iraq during the 1980-88 Gulf war.

### Iran calls for Iraqi withdrawal

NICOSIA (R) — A radical Iranian newspaper said on Sunday U.N. efforts to hold new peace talks between Iran and Iraq would fail unless Iraq withdrew from Iranian territory. "A new round of talks would be a waste of time and resources if the U.N. Secretary General (Javier Perez de Cuellar) fails to urge Baghdad to withdraw from all the Iranian territories still under Iraqi occupation," said an editorial in the radical English-language Kayhan International. "The Iranian government must clarify this point," it said. Perez de Cuellar plans to call the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq for talks over two months, beginning as soon as possible. U.N. efforts to turn an August 1988 Iran-Iraq ceasefire into a permanent settlement have failed despite several rounds of talks in New York and Geneva, the last in April 1989.

### Iran condemns India over Kashmir

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karrubi accused India Sunday of "massacring" Muslims in Kashmir. Karrubi, speaking in parliament, said the Indian government could not solve the Kashmir problem by violence and killing. His remarks were reported by Tehran Radio and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Kashmir is divided between Pakistan and the north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, which is the only Indian state with a Muslim majority. Nearly 150 people have died since the government began cracking down on a Muslim militants seeking either a reunited and independent Kashmir or that it all become part of Pakistan. "Karrubi condemned the massacre of the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir... he expressed his regret and sorrow over the Indian government's treatment of the Kashmiri Muslims, describing it as irrational and injudicious. Karrubi advised the Indian government to deal with the issue of the Jammu and Kashmir Muslims in a rational and judicious manner, saying the problem would not be resolved through violence and killing," the radio reported. The speaker called on Iran's Foreign Ministry to "do its utmost to halt the massacre of the Kashmiri Muslims," it said.

### Turkish trains collide, one killed

ANKARA (R) — One railroadman was killed and 15 other people were injured Sunday when two Turkish passenger trains collided at Polatli 80 kilometres west of Ankara, a railways official said. The accident happened when the overnight train to Ankara from Izmir disregarded a red signal to enter the line on which the Ankara-Istanbul train was approaching, he told Reuters. Railwaymen said the death toll was low because both trains were travelling slowly through the town.

### Sudan adjourns case of convicted Arabs

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's supreme court adjourned until March 21 hearings to decide whether five Palestinians convicted of murdering five Britons and to Sudanese will be allowed to escape the gallows by paying blood money to their victims' families. The supreme court's Judge Ahmad Al Bashir Al Hadi told the AP that the hearings were adjourned to March 21. He refused to say why. A source at the British embassy said the supreme court held a 10-minute "procedural hearing" and then adjourned the case because of the absence of the prosecutor who was ill and because not all the necessary documents were available. The Palestinians were convicted of murdering five Britons and two Sudanese in a bomb attack on a Khartoum hotel on May 15, 1988 and were sentenced to hang. Under Islamic Law, the case went to the supreme court to decide their fate according to the wishes of the victims' families. The embassy source said that the two families of the British victims had decided against attending the court hearing in Sudan and had submitted their opinions through lawyers and the Sudanese embassy in London.

### 4 rebel battalions wiped out — Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — The Sudanese Armed Forces Command has reported that its troops have wiped out four rebel battalions and two camps in south Sudan. The statement, as carried by the Egyptian state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) in a report from the Sudanese capital Khartoum, did not give exact locations of the fighting or provide any figures. It said the troops encountered the forces of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army while on their way to Juba, the besieged capital of the southern Equatoria region. Juba is 1,200 kilometres south of Khartoum. The agency meanwhile quoted Ali Shummo, the Sudanese information minister, as saying that troop reinforcements have succeeded in entering Juba with large quantities of weapons, ammunition and food supplies, "accomplishing great victories on their way from Malakal to Juba." Malakal, the capital of the Upper Nile region, is 680 kilometres south of Khartoum.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-10

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programmes  
16:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
16:05 ..... World News  
16:15 ..... Local programme  
16:40 ..... Programme review  
16:50 ..... News in Arabic  
17:00 ..... Arabic series  
17:10 ..... Programme review  
17:40 ..... News summary in Arabic

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
18:00 ..... Arsen Lupin  
18:05 ..... News in French  
18:15 ..... Weekly Sport magazine  
19:25 ..... News in English  
19:45 ..... Varieties  
20:20 ..... Empty Nest  
21:10 ..... Houston  
21:40 ..... Local programmes  
22:20 ..... Midnight Caller

### PRAYER TIMES

06:30 ..... Sunrise  
07:30 ..... Sunrise  
11:47 ..... Dhuhr  
15:05 ..... Asr  
17:39 ..... Maghreb  
18:50 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth  
Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.  
632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Nova Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.  
625343.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.  
775261.  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.  
Assam International Church Tel.  
685326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.  
811255.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-  
Day Saints Tel. 813817, 649932.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of  
Meteorology.  
A drop in temperatures will occur  
and scattered showers of rain are  
expected. Winds will be northwesterly  
moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly

cloudy with a chance for scattered  
showers and winds will be southerly  
fresh and seas wavy.

Min./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 5 / 15  
Aqaba ..... 12 / 24  
Deserts ..... 3 / 17  
Jordan Valley ..... 10 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman  
22, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings:  
Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 26 per  
cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Saad Abu Yatab ..... 744689  
Dr. Jamil Marqab ..... 776046  
Dr. Youssef Samour ..... 615648  
Dr. Wael Khatib ..... 665917  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fardous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Azzam pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoudh pharmacy ..... 625672  
Al Selam pharmacy ..... 636780  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsani pharmacy ..... 637660  
BIRZI:  
Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi ..... (—)

Al Shura'a pharmacy ..... 985238  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Mufadd Daura ..... (—)  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue ..... 630441  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 634802  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 070230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdull Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 771111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power

Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. ..... 642816  
Al-Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. ..... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Mafkas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Samiouni ..... 6647114  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Mushar Hospital ..... 6672719  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612757  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Infant, Al-Muhajreen ..... 771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish ..... 7751126  
Army, Marka ..... 89161715  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60240590  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983523  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IBRAHIM:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275535  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272725  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal  
Jordanian (RJ) information depart-  
ment at the Queen Alia International  
Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it  
should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Larana (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:10 ..... Sanaa (LH)

10:00 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
10:05 ..... Cairo (MS)  
10:10 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
10:15 ..... Kuwait (KL)  
10:40 ..... Bucharest (RO)  
10:45 ..... Kuwait (LN)  
10:50 ..... Paris (AF)  
09:25 ..... Baghdad (AF)

### DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Brussels, Montreal, New York  
(RJ)  
11:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
14:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
14:30 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
14:35 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 ..... London (BA)  
06:15 ..... Beirut (ME)  
06:10 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
11:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
11:05 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
11:45 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
19:15 ..... Bucharest (RO)

16:00 ..... Tripoli (LN)  
19:40 ..... Baghdad (AF)  
01:35 ..... Paris (AF)



## King explains move to Arabise armed forces

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Jordan in reply to a cable the PLA commander sent congratulating the King on the 34th anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The King said that he took the decision to Arabise the Armed Forces "in accordance with the national requirements of the time to mobilise Arab forces at the front line in the face of the common enemy, and in defence of the Arab Nation."

"This decision reflected Jordan's deep commitment to serving Arab causes in general and

the Palestine cause in particular and to back the Palestinian people's heroic stand and struggle for freedom," the King said.

PLA commander Brigadier Naim Al Khatib, in his congratulatory cable to the King, said "Your decision to hand over the leadership to Arab commanders reflects Jordan's true commitment and determination to shoulder its responsibilities in the face of the threats posed to Jordan and to deal with the hostile plans directed against Jordan and the Palestine cause."

Khatib also paid tribute to King Hussein for his endeavours to build the Armed Forces to deal with Israeli plots and aggression on the Arab Homeland.

## Parliament speakers meet Amnesty chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi met Sunday with Amnesty International Secretary General Ian Martin and reviewed with him Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Lawzi also pointed out that Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel constitutes a violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Martin said his organisation plays an important role in exposing Israeli practices against the Palestinians and praised the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to safeguard human dignity and his serious endeavours and interest in abolishing martial law in Jordan and ensuring the success of the parliamentary march in the Kingdom.

Lower House Speaker Sulaiman Arar also met with Martin.

The parliamentary march and the democratic and political life in Jordan and the functions of the various parliamentary committees, were the focus of the talks.

Arar also reviewed with Martin cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities in Jordan.

The speaker pointed out to the recent government moves to abolish martial law and the anti-communism law, which is now being studied by the House's Legal Committee.

Arar also raised the issue of Israel's practices in the occupied territories.

Martin reviewed the nature of Amnesty's work, pointing out that the human rights organisation gives priority to monitoring the situation in the occupied territories.

He stressed the important role which the Lower House can play in strengthening democratic bases.

## Ministry signs accords to help Rweished

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture and three local companies Sunday signed agreements designed to help carry out parts of a project for the development of the Rweished region near the Iraqi border, a project initiated in 1983.

Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyah, who signed the agreements, said the agreements entail providing water pumps and operating two artesian wells at a cost of JD 90,000.

The agreements also provide for the preparation of geological studies and soil testing at four different areas and engineering designs and tender documents for the construction of a services centre and a maintenance unit at a cost of JD 150,000, he said.

The Rweished project is intended to provide basic services, including schools, and a services

centre and housing units for workers on the project. It is hoped that the project can help raise the economic and social standards of local residents, the minister said.

According to Mohammad Shakhateh, director of the Hamud region, local teams have so far drilled six artesian wells with an overall capacity of one million cubic metres of water annually, which will be sufficient for the region's needs. Other civil works pertaining to the project, including two desert dams together storing up to 13 million cubic metres of water and a veterinary centre have also been carried out, Shakhateh said.

He said that a girls school built at a cost of JD 110,000 will be completed before the end of 1990.

## Famous pianist to give recital today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory and the British Council in Amman present famous British pianist John Clegg in a recital at 8 p.m., Monday at the main hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.

The recital includes works by Mozart, Faure, Liszt and Rachmaninoff, in addition to British composers Edward MacDowell (1861-1908) and Alan Rawsthorne (1905-1971).

John Clegg is Jordan's most regular musical visitor from the United Kingdom. He first played in Amman in 1969.

Based at Lancaster University, he divides his time between teaching mathematics and the no less rigorous demands of a remarkable series of concert-tours across the world, playing both solo works and concertos.

Clegg studied music with the distinguished teacher, the late Herbert Fryer, and after three years' study at Jesus College, Cambridge, gave his first London recital in 1951.

Since then he has, in addition to giving numerous concerts in the United Kingdom, appeared in many countries worldwide. Frequent tours of the Middle East, the Far East and Europe, are interspersed with visits to Canada, Mexico, South America and Australia.

Well known as a broadcaster for the British Broadcasting Corporation, he has also played for radio and television in many countries, often including specialist works by British composers and lesser-played figures like Faure, Max Reger and Medner. Each season sees a total of some 20 countries visited.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

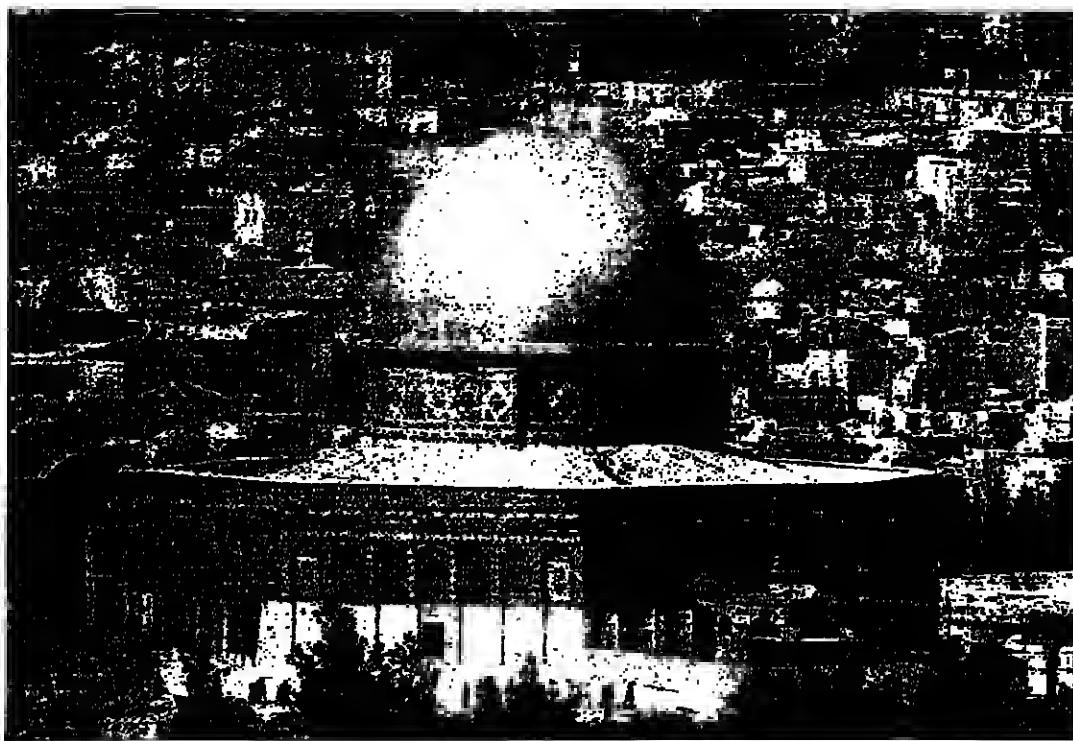
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oils and watercolours by Jordanian artist Youssef Baddawi at the gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental — 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Hassan Jalal at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artists Arji Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabahneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Graphic art exhibition by Ne'mat Al Nasser at the Yarmouk University.

### CONCERT

- ★ Piano concert by John Clegg at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



The Dome of the Rock Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. The Israeli occupation power's violations of the sanctity of Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and

elsewhere in the occupied territories will be discussed by a conference to be held in Amman in June.

## Meeting to review Israeli violations of Islamic shrines

AMMAN (Petra) — Questions related to the influx of Soviet Jews to Palestine and the history of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem as well as Israel's practices against Islamic holy places since 1948 will be among the main topics to be reviewed by an international symposium on Jerusalem affairs to be held here in the second half of June.

An announcement by the General Islamic Conference on

Jerusalem, which is organising the meeting, said Sunday nearly 100 Muslim scholars and researchers from various Islamic countries are expected to take part in the symposium.

Several research papers and documents on the history of the Holy City and Islamic holy places, particularly Al Aqsa Mosque and Islamic institutions in Jerusalem, will be reviewed.

Research papers dealing with

studies on Zionist actions like excavations under the Al Aqsa Mosque and the dangers inherent in such practices and means of confronting them will be discussed by the scholars.

It said that the role of Islamic countries' information services and the media in defence of Jerusalem and its holy places in the face of continued settlement of Jews and violations of the sanctity of holy places would be discussed.

## Major trade centre planned

AMMAN (Petra) — Preparations are under way for setting up an international trade centre in Amman in which several major commercial firms are participating.

Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, said in a statement that the centre, whose initial capital will amount to JD 84,000, would serve as a shareholding company grouping the federation, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation and the Jordanian Exporters Society.

Asfour said a special American assistance programme for the private sector in Jordan would contribute part of the cost of the centre by paying a sum equal to the contributions by Jordanian institutions.

The centre, Asfour said, is expected to help stimulate transforming Jordan into a regional trading centre in view of its geographical location and skilled manpower potential.

Trade talks with Libya

In another development, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce announced Sunday that it would participate in talks to be held in Libya in May to boost Jordanian-Libyan trade. Talks will be conducted by the

Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation and the federation in Tripoli with the purpose of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries, the federation said. It said that the Jordanian delegation would orient Libyans on the Kingdom's industrial and agricultural products and brief investors on the opportunities for investment in Jordan.

The federation has also formed a two-member team to go to Tunis later this month to pave the way for convening a Jordanian economic seminar there to orient Tunisians on Jordan's industrial and economic potentials and investment opportunities.

## Bilad Al Sham review opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fifth international conference on the history of Bilad Al Sham opened at the University of Jordan Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the participation of a large number of Arab and foreign scholars and historians.

The five-day conference, organised by the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University in cooperation with Damascus University, will review 11 topics covering administration and institutions, population, taxes, commerce,

agriculture and water resources, lands, industry, currency, architecture and arts, and scientific and literary life during the Abbasid era.

Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, deputising for Prince Hassan, addressed the opening session underlining the need for rewriting the history of Bilad Al Sham. He said that a great deal of false and misleading information had been included in books and writings about the Arab region, mostly by non-Arabs. It is the duty of Arab historians and scholars to put things right and it is the

responsibility of Arab and Islamic institutions and academics to help scholars carry out their mission, Lawzi said.

The participants will review the Abbasid period from 750 A.D. to 1059 and will also review research papers and hear lectures on Bilad Al Sham during the Abbasid era. After the opening session, the delegates visited an exhibition held at the Department of Antiquities displaying artifacts and various objects representing various civilisations in the Arab region and in the Islamic period.

## Seminar tackles population

IRBID (J.T.) — A three-day national seminar on communications, population and development opened at Yarmouk University Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Yarmouk University President Ali Mahafzah, who deputised for Prince Hassan, opened the sessions with a speech outlining the university's endeavours in socio-economic development and education over the past 14 years

of its existence. "Comprehensive development in Jordan," he said, "takes into account the development of human beings and their skills with which economic development can continue." He said that human resources development was of paramount importance in a country with one of the highest population growth rates in the world.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Ali Atiga referred in his speech to the volume of

assistance provided by the UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to finance population projects in Jordan. He said UNDP spent \$4 million on these projects and training programmes. The seminar is designed to focus attention on the population situation in Jordan, the impact of population growth in the country, the role of communications in dealing with population problems and the inclusion of the subject of population education in school curricula.

## Baddawi — rhythms of rural life

By Nelly Lama  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian artist Youssef Baddawi's exhibition of oils, gouaches and watercolours captures the warmth of the Middle Eastern sun as it seeps through the colourful attire of people at an open marketplace. As he uses maroon and yellow ochre, he reaches rather exotic ethnic effects. He balances his scarlet with emerald green and the rhythmic figures suddenly acquire an unforeseen solemnity.

Baddawi's work ranges from realistic figuration to total abstraction. In both cases the rhythms never cease and the sweeping composition always seems to acquire one or two verticals, usually standing figures, to counterbalance the sway with solidity. Figures standing in different poses against flat space offer a rich palette of colours.

The different directions and rhythms of figures are overwhelmed by a large expanse of

ochre sky that shuts off the rhythms and makes the interlocking group appear restful and whispering.

He paints a solemn and monumental "Veiled Woman" that, in spite of its small size, tells of respect and awe to the person depicted. A large, dark veil, a centralised seated figure, it is reminiscent of the Gothic Madonna of Cimabue.

A snow scene in cool blue and green of a road that converges inward speedily onto the horizon and swerves around a wall that acts as a counterpoint to it. This is flanked by two trees that bring about calm to an otherwise dynamic thrust.

Baddawi handles another theme, and develops its infinite possibilities, the world of children. He paints little girls squatting, playing a game, yawning, dreaming. This allows him to draw the body in motion, in a wide range of poses. The colours he uses here are more vivid and less heavy than in his rural paint-

ings. In the background he leaves a large empty space, an effect typical of his early works. He adds a hint of solid, vertical architectural elements that create a contrast with the folding bodies.

His gouaches, opaque and tinted reiterate the theme of man in space. One seated man, done with flatly filled spaces and no external outline, reminds us of the work of American artist Milton Avery.

It is unfortunate that in such an exhibition, we find some watercolours that are a detriment to the artist, since they not only show his lack of mastery of the medium, which I stress is very difficult to handle, but also a lack of access, of sensitivity to the medium, to its transparencies. If we can turn a blind eye to that, we can assume that this is a highly successful exhibition by an artist who paints what he lives. The exhibition is being held at the Gallery at the Jordan Inter-Continental hotel.

## Japanese envoy highlights warm relations with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tadayuki Nonoyama, ambassador of Japan to Jordan, delivered a lecture entitled "Japan-Jordan Relations" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Sunday.

In his address, Ambassador Nonoyama gave the outline of the remarkable development of Japanese-Jordanian relations despite their brief history of 15 years since the countries opened their respective embassies in Amman and Tokyo.

He highlighted the warm relationship of mutual respect and friendship between Japan's imperial family and Jordan's royal family and close cooperation between Japan and Jordan in the political, economic and cultural

fields.

Nonoyama said Japan's position on the Middle East was identical with that of Jordan. He also described Japan's active cooperation in Jordan's efforts in economic and social development.

Nonoyama also explained the development of science and technology in Japan and large scale research and development projects now under way in Japan. He said that the development of science and technology would play a significant role in the nation's economic and social development.

The text of the ambassador's address will appear in two parts in tomorrow's and Wednesday's editions of the Jordan Times.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### King congratulates Chamorro, Nujoma

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro congratulating her on her election and wishing her continued good health and happiness and the Nicaraguan people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a similar cable to Namibian President Sam Nujoma congratulating him on his election.

### King receives cables from Arab leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received cables from Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. Hrawi, who was flying over Jordanian airspace en route to Saudi Arabia, cabled good wishes to the King and thanked him for efforts to serve the pan-Arab causes. Sheikh Zayed wished the King continued good health, happiness and success, and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. The UAE leader's cable came as a reply to a cable sent by the King.

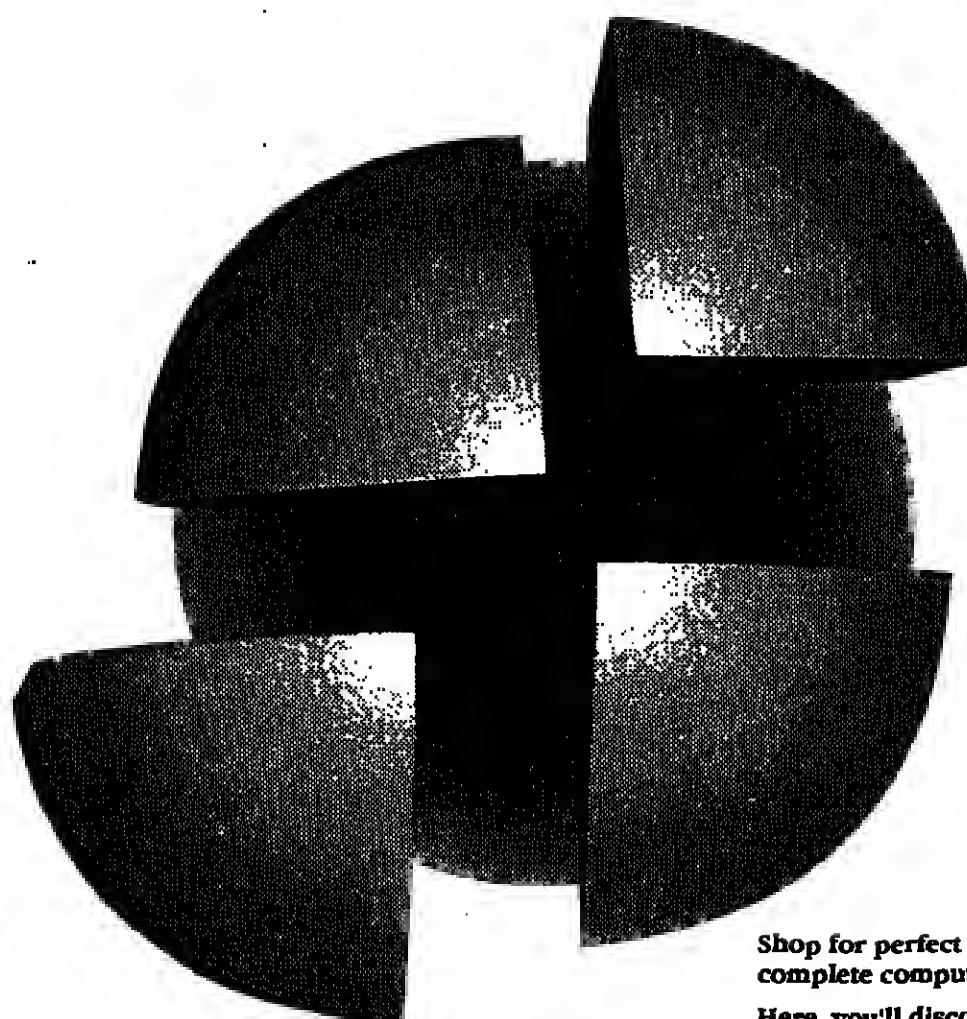
### Badran meets generous citizens

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday received three Jordanian citizens who have made generous donations to the treasury and thanked them for their contributions, which reflect the donors' sense of belonging and their love of their homeland. Khuloud Jao'ni, a journalist, contributed all the jewelry she owned to the treasury while retired serviceman Faq Rashed Al Khurzi donated all his annual pension to the treasury. A third citizen, Ghaleb Al Hnoud, contributed JD 1,000 to the treasury. Earlier Alia Mohammad Abu Tayeh contributed her jewelry to the treasury.

### Ceramic exhibition opened

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Mudar Badran's wife Sunday opened an art exhibition by Siham Al Samdi. The eight-day exhibition, held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, includes 44 ceramic plates reflecting Arab and Muslim heritage.

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## Jordan Times

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## Yemens set example

NORTH and South Yemen are setting a fine example of how Arab unity can be achieved. The agreement reached between the two states Saturday to merge their central banks, ports, customs, posts and communications and media offers the most operational step yet that any two Arab states have taken in recent years to forge unity between them. Sana'a and Aden are in effect showing the way to other Arab countries which talk a lot about achieving unity among themselves but do nothing about it.

In effect the Arab history now in the making in that part of the Arab World, must serve as a true nucleus for Arab unification. Closer to home, the exemplary path taken by the two Yemeni states needs to be viewed also as a fine example for the Arab Cooperation Council countries to emulate. Anything short of what the two Yemeni states are doing would border more on the rhetorical and the lack of substance and coherence.

This is not to suggest that current conditions in the Arab World are ripe for absolute unity overnight or that total and complete unity among them can be achieved by one giant leap forward. Rather it is a recommendation that practical step-by-step approaches be taken on the long road towards total Arab unity. The Arab people are simply tired of hearing so much about Arab unification when there is really nothing that is being done to implement that noble yet elusive goal. The least that Arab nationalists would like to see is the beginning of an Arab federal state commencing with the existing three Arab principal Arab groupings, the Gulf Cooperation Council in the Gulf region, the Arab Cooperation Council in the Near East and finally the Maghreb Union in North Africa. Even a loose federation within and among these three groupings of Arab states could serve as a solid start on which more can be built in due course. The Yemeni experiment can be most helpful to all Arab states if they are genuine about their call for Arab unity. Then a new Arab edifice can be constructed on the Arab League structure to service the federal needs of the newly established Arab federations. Meanwhile the two Yemeni states deserve to be congratulated for making at least part of the Arab dream come true. Now the rest of the Arab World can have in the Yemeni agreements something honourable and practical to look up to as they push their respective governments for more concrete actions and steps towards Arab unity.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

There is no doubt that King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein realise that their meetings and their consultations ought to be deepened and become part of a joint action serving the whole Arab Nation, said Al Rai Arabic daily Sunday. The paper said that it is not enough to rise to the level of the international developments, but rather to realise that the end of the cold war in Europe could usher in a new war directed against the Arabs; and could pave the way for a package deal among major powers at the expense of the Arab countries and others in the developing world. There is no doubt that the Arabs are now convinced that there can be no room for further procrastination and delay in taking meaningful steps towards their unity and towards pooling all resources in the face of the common challenges, the paper noted. The first step, it said, should be a translation of their declaration and their joint statements into practice, especially concerning the influx of Jews into Palestine. The Arabs can not expect the Europeans and other nations to take moves that can serve the Arab Nation's interests. If the Arabs themselves are serious enough in their planning and their joint efforts, the first step to safeguard Arab interests should be taken in and by the Arab World, the paper concluded.

Writing in Al Rai Arabic daily columnist Tareq Masarweh says that the Arab countries have no power over Lebanon, and can do very little to settle the internal strife that has torn the country apart. Commenting on President Hrawi's planned tour of Arab states to seek support for his government, the writer says that Hrawi who was elected by the Lebanese parliament and who represents the legitimate government in Lebanon should first take the step of imposing his government's will and power over the part of Lebanon supposedly under his control. The Syrians also have a role to play in helping the president achieve this end by imposing control over the militias in Beirut and other cities, and by helping to collect the weapons which they had been using to kill one another and devastate their country, the writer notes. He says once the legitimate power has imposed its control by word and deed on the western areas of Beirut and other parts of Lebanon, the way will be paved for dealing with the other remaining, and relatively small pockets which have so far refused to recognise the government of Hrawi and are still defying all forms of legitimate and central power in Lebanon.

Al Dastour daily commented on Israel's ban on reports about the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories, and said it was part of the Zionist plan to settle Jewish immigrants in all of Palestine without fanfare. It said that the Israeli government does not want to focus light on this question so as to escape all forms of international pressure to persuade the Jewish state to refrain from such action. The paper said despite the Israeli measures, Western sources have been reporting an escalation of efforts for the settlement of the newcomers in the West Bank. The paper said that perhaps the Israeli government wanted by this announcement and this ban to escape any pressure from the United States following U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's warning that Washington will not provide any assistance to Israel should it pursue its present settlement policies. Therefore we expect from the United States to back its words with deeds and refrain from extending help to Israel until it refrains from pursuing such illegal practices, the paper said.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Time to reassess non-alignment

THE Non-Aligned Movement must now feel it is up the creek in the wake of the end of the cold war and the easing of West-East polarisation. The movement must soon indulge itself in a soul-searching debate about its future, now that it has lost its raison d'être as a caretaker of the interests of nations not aligned to the traditional, post-World War II East-West alliances.

If it is not already doing so, it sure must do so soon if not on the official level then privately. I suspect that the movement's next meeting must address the direct issue of whether the movement can continue as it is presently constituted in the view of the dramatic changes in the international arena. It must be recalled that the movement was established in the first place to protect the interests and well-being of the developing countries in the context of the multi-dimensional rivalry between the East and the West Blocs as they were traditionally constituted till the advent of the recent changes in international relations. There is no doubt that the premise on which the Non-Aligned Movement was created has completely lost its contents and meaning and can be, for all intents and purposes, declared null and void. There is an entirely new ball game in the world now characterised by the formation of new axes of power unrelated to the hitherto orthodox East-West conflicts. Given these realities, the members of the Non-Aligned Movement need to regroup themselves on regional basis with more emphasis than ever on economic formations and common regional markets. Super economic blocks are destined to over-

shadow all other manifestations of power in the world for much of the 21st century. United Germany will exercise a central role in the European economic theatre; Japan will play a parallel role in the Far East and North America, the U.S. and Canada will fiercely compete against the two economic blocs.

There is no way that the Non-Aligned Movement can maintain even a resemblance of a united economic or political power bloc in view of the diversity of the interests of its members and the deep-rooted contradictions in their structures be they economic, social, political or even cultural. The only viable course for the movement to take is to subdivide and regroup on the basis of regional or economic commonality of interest. The African members of the movement should think in terms of several formations. The same could be said for the Asian and Latin American countries which had chosen in the past the path of non-alignment for the articulation of their policies and principles. One can already discern that even the Arab League has begun the process of disintegration followed by Arab regrouping on the basis of three principal regional councils, one serving the North African Arab countries, the other catering to the needs of the Near East Arab countries and the third serving the Arab Gulf region. Even these three sub-regional Arab formations need more streamlining in order to assure a higher degree of cohesion and convergence of interests. There is no way the Arab League, as currently structured, can survive the genesis of the new Arab

groupings. It too will have to restructure itself and streamline its operations and activities along new guide-lines and principles. At best, the Arab League may end up being a secretariat to service the needs of the three Arab formations, nothing more, nothing else. In this vein, all its diplomatic offices around the world would have to close up because they ended up redundant and superfluous.

The same applies to the Non-Aligned Movement and its activities and operations worldwide. The movement, like the Arab League, is a prime example of an organisation which has been atrophied by the advent of contemporary events and developments that left it with nothing to do. The best that the members of the movement can do to salvage themselves from getting lost in the new international arena is to opt for some association or another with one of the emerging centres of economic power in the world. Latin American countries would naturally choose the U.S.-Canadian axis, the African and Near East Asian countries would logically opt in principle for some preferential treatment within the expanded European Common Market and the rest of Asian countries may very well go Japan's way where they may hope to enjoy some form of connection or another.

Whatever the final shape and form of the dis-memberment of the Non-Aligned Movement, the movement itself will wither away as fast as the new rapid transformations in the world take root.

## E. European state-run media sing a different tune

By Viorel Urma  
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — East Germany's Neues Deutschland, once the thundering voice of the Communist party, is now advertising movies, jobs and vacation homes in the West.

In Bulgaria, angry readers huy the Communist party newspaper just to tear it up.

All over Eastern Europe, formerly omnipotent Communist dailies, for decades the voice of Marxist-Leninist governments, are facing hard times.

With Communist rule crumbling after more than 40 years of single-party dominance, the state-run press is changing its tune in a bid to keep readership.

Survival means providing credible alternatives to new independent newspapers across the region that cover new parties, issues and grievances.

While some of the East bloc's media flagships have followed the parties into oblivion, others are trying to avoid the same fate by attracting foreign investors or trying to become independent.

In Romania, where Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled and executed in December, the former party daily Scinteia (Spark) was renamed Adevarul (Truth) and is no longer the party's voice.

"The Communist party is dead. It self-dissolved because of its close association with Ceausescu's tyrannical rule," interim President Ion Iliescu said.

In its reborn version, Adevarul, calls itself an independent daily. It prints stories lambasting Ceausescu's harsh brand of Communism in a break with the old practice of glorifying the dictator.

In Bulgaria, rivalries between readers of a new opposition daily, democracy, and those of the revamped Communist party daily apparently set off a newspaper spat in February.

In a commentary entitled, "Auto-da-fe — without fire," the Communist daily Rabotnichesko Delo (Workers' Cause) acknowledged that many copies of the paper bought in Sofia in mid-February were torn up on the spot.

Democracy urged its readers not to tear up Rabotnichesko Delo, saying this was "uncivilised." It suggested that readers dissatisfied with the Communist daily should mail it back to the editors.

In Czechoslovakia, editors of the Communist party daily apologised for spreading untruths, propaganda and offensive language against those who dared to deviate from the party line in the years before the leadership was ousted in November.

"Serious political debate was abandoned in favour of personal attacks and scandalisation of people whose opinions differed from those of the Communist leadership," said Zdenek Porybny, who became editor in January.

For years, Rude Pravo attacked Vaclav Havel and other prominent dissidents. Now Havel has become Czechoslovakia's president.

The paper got a facelift as well as a change of editorial policy. Since the beginning of the year, it has been published in a smaller format but has almost doubled its pages to 16. Soviet-style medal insignias have been dropped from the masthead.

Circulation dropped by about 200,000 to 920,000 after the peaceful November revolution, and that may be not enough for the paper to survive. Deputy editor Michal Rizek admitted that about three per cent of the copies on the newsstands are never sold.

East Germany's Neues Deutschland has changed its name to Socialist Daily and added such features as a serialised novel, crossword puzzle and a television guide including West German listings.

Editor Wolfgang Spickermann said the paper has about one million subscribers, but it needs more. The paper's price goes up in April in a bid to become self-supporting after losing a large subsidy from the Communist party.

In its new garb, the newspaper gives coverage to opposition political parties that Neues Deutschland never would have acknowledged before the old regime fell last autumn.

Among the latest gimmicks to attract more readers are advertisements for films in West Germany and vacation homes in Italy, and even West German products and jobs.

"Now, we are buying the paper not to listen to his master's voice any more, but to find out what's going on around us," said Uwe Endlinger, an East Berlin auto worker.

In Hungary, ownership of the former Communist party organ Nepszabadsag passed over to the Hungarian Socialist party when it changed its name in October. This has also resulted in a less rigid approach to political reporting.

In a more spectacular move, British press baron Robert Maxwell bought a 40-per cent share in the former Communist-run government daily Magyar Nemzet to save it from bankruptcy.

Maxwell said he regarded his Hungarian investment as the first of several media joint ventures in the East bloc.

In Poland, where the Polish United Workers (Communist) party dissolved in late January, its newspaper, Trybuna Ludu changed its name to Trybuna, dropping the red headlines and the medals across the banner.

## Irish prime minister leading drive to anchor Germany in EC

By Barry Schweid  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It is falling to the prime minister of Ireland, in this season of rapid change, to see what can be done to anchor the emerging new and more powerful Germany in a democratic European Community.

Ireland is the only neutralist country in the 12-nation community. But Charles J. Haughey, the prime minister, is not neutral about the task at hand.

As the president of the European Council, a job that rotates every six months, Haughey called on President George Bush this week and held other meetings around town that, for a change, were not focused on the trouble in Northern Ireland.

Like most Europeans, he considers unification of East Germany and West Germany inevitable — and a good thing. But he knows a lot of people are anxious, and Haughey feels the best way to allay those concerns — especially economic ones — is to wrap Germany into the European Community, which is on a fast track to economic union.

He also favours stronger U.S. ties to Europe.

West Germany is an economic colossus, accounting for 25 per cent of the gross national product of the 12 Community countries. In a merger, East Germany would integrate its currency with wealthy West Germany, likely touching off inflation as East Germans acquire long-denied consumer goods.

The fact that a reunited Germany will be even stronger militarily is another source of worry to its neighbours, although Haughey said any European con-

cerns "would be directed most at German economic might and possible domination."

Haughey, who has served three unconnected terms as Irish prime minister, is pleased that Germany would remain in the European Community after unification, participating in the transition to a Europe of shared interests and cooperation.

"A Germany remaining a full and committed member of the European Community is a great reassurance," he said.

Still, Haughey admits the turn of events is unprecedented.

"There are no rules or texts that can guide us on how to handle it," he said.

Haughey is counting heavily on the good sense of West German officials and a European determination to pull together.

While West Germany will bear most of the burden of rehabilitating East Germany, the 11 other European Community members intend to provide assistance with trade and investment programmes.

"In short," he said, "there will be very big costs to bring East Germany in, and to bring it up to West European standards."

A European Community development bank will be ready to make loans to all the East European countries as they switch to non-Marxist systems, and to the Soviet Union as well.

"Fortunately," Haughey said, "Germany is the member ablest most easily to bear this burden. It can handle it with the greatest skill and determination."

Moreover, Germany is anchored by the 35-nation European Security Conference. This is the grouping of the Soviet Union

and its allies, West Europeans, neutral nations and the United States and Canada with a common commitment to human rights.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's proposal for a summit later this year to promote a "common European home" has U.S. support provided human rights are enshrined at the summit as a fundamental principle. The summit was to have been held in 1992.

"Moving it up reflects everyone's anxiety to deal with the German issue," Haughey said. "There are anxieties — concerns may be a better word. I think, on the whole, people will be relieved by these factors."

A strong nationalist who has worked as a barrister and an accountant, Haughey is considered a canny analyst. His analysis of European integration is that it is unstoppable, despite British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's reservations.

In seeking stronger U.S. ties to the community, Haughey worked out with Bush a plan for semi-annual meetings of the presidents of the United States and the European Council, as well as meetings twice a year between Secretary of State James Baker and the 12 Community foreign ministers.

All this is fine with the Bush administration. The "new architecture" Baker has proposed for Europe includes closer U.S. ties.

But that doesn't mean Haughey favours U.S. membership in the community. "There cannot be a 13th seat at the table," he said. The Europeans intend to make integration decisions themselves.

## LETTERS

### Sally

To the Editor:

ALTHOUGH I don't always agree with Marian Shahin's ideas, I think she is a good writer and her articles in Focus On People are interesting because they usually "focus" on the ordinary people who make up our society.

In "Upstairs, downstairs," (Jordan Times, February 26), Marian's article brought to mind a family of my acquaintance who once had a servant named Sally. Sally, a Filipina too, was from Manila and like Rose had a college degree but because of lower wages offered in the Philippines, sought employment in Jordan as a servant.

Sally also had to work long hours daily. She had to put up with the snobbery of the Madam of the house who treated her poor servant with a "Holier Than Thou" attitude.

Sally was never allowed to be a friend of this "elite family who were continually occupied with sticking their noses up in the air. Although she had to take care of Madam's children, the children were taught that Sally was quite inferior to their social status. Meanwhile, the family's only son, a horrible brat, would hit and kick Sally and humiliate her.

Sally was never supposed to look pretty which was difficult because she was pretty, much prettier than her "Madam." She was not allowed to fix her hair, wear make-up, nail polish or nice clothes and was snubbed because she refused to wear the old rags that were forced on her.

She also worked long hours without complaining and her meals were a work of art. Everything Sally touched turned into near perfection.

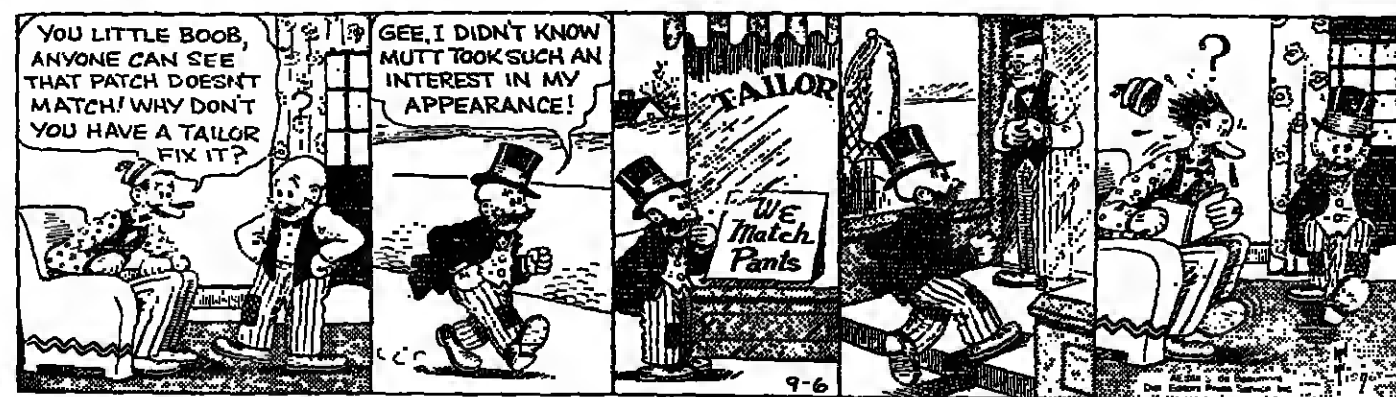
After quite a few years of excellent service, Sally was dismissed without explanation. She was never appreciated by the family she worked for.

Perhaps if people around Sally were nicer, she at least could have taken a better idea of the Arab countries back home with her and who knows, she may have accepted Islam too.

As for Mr. and Mrs. Snob and children, I don't know what kind of servant they have now. Certainly few could compare with Sally. It's too bad and sad that Sally was never good enough for the family who employed her. It seems they had an all too common theory: "All people are created equal, but some are more equal than others."

E. Yaghi  
Amman

## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts







Photo by M. Nour (UNRWA)

## UNIPAL — helping Palestinians learn

LONDON — UNIPAL Universities Educational Fund for Palestinian Refugees sees education as a mutual process, involving both giving and receiving. There is not only a need for Palestinians to develop their skills, but also for British and other Westerners to learn about Palestinians: their culture, their history and their present situation.

In order to use most fruitfully our limited resources, we concentrate on those forms of help that benefit not only individuals, but also communities. They are:

1. Courses in England for Palestinian nurses and teachers.

In view of the desperate need for more well-trained nurses in Lebanon it is from there that Unipal helps Palestinian nurses to come to Britain. The courses arranged for them through the cooperation of British hospitals enable them to return as clinical tutors and so pass on their knowledge and improved skills to nurses still in training.

Teachers of English come in their summer vacation for language courses generously given by language schools here and they are welcomed into English homes. Most of them have never had the chance before to be with English-speaking people. Let alone come to England. They gain not only in knowledge and use of the language but in knowledge of the country from which the language sprang, and new ideas for teaching, all of which benefit their pupils.

British people — nurses and staff in hospitals, hosts, teachers and foreign students in the language schools, many of them meeting Palestinians for the first time, learn a great deal from them and some lasting friendships are formed. Unipal pays for air fares and travel in Britain, and contributes to maintenance. So in spite of the generosity of the language schools and hospitals, the cost to us is considerable.

2. Financial aid for Palestinian educational projects.

There is an urgent need for kindergartens in the continually devastated refugee camps of South Lebanon. Unipal makes a special effort to raise funds for them, earmarking annual Flag Days in various centres for this purpose.

Struggling institutions for disadvantaged children and students in the Israeli-occupied territories receive our support as far as our resources allow.

Now because of the many Palestinians disabled as a result of the attempt to suppress the intifada in the occupied territories, we plan to give support to a training school for physiotherapists — who are urgently needed.

3. The volunteer programme in the Middle East.

Every summer we send 40 to 60 young people to the Middle East during the long vacation to share their skills with Palestinians. Some participate in manual work-camps or in summer activities with children. But most teach English. Good English is essential for higher education, for most skilled jobs and for international communication. The demand to learn better English is so great among all age groups that we also send out several qualified teachers of English as a foreign language on year-long contracts to teach in refugee camps.

In the past the majority of volunteers have gone to the Israeli-occupied territories (West Bank and Gaza). But while the intifada continues it is not possible, unfortunately, to carry out a normal programme in these territories. However, we hoped to expand a new project in Jordan which was set up in 1988 in cooperation with UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), as Jordan has the largest concentration of Palesti-

nian refugees. We shall also continue to send volunteers to Palestinian communities in Israel, educational opportunities for them there being severely limited. This project was started in 1984.

Summer volunteers pay their own fares to the Middle East but we have to pay for the maintenance of some, for local transport and for books; and part of the costs of year-long volunteers. These expenses make a heavy call on our budget.

Unipal volunteers obtain an intimate view of how Palestinians have to live, experience their warmth and friendliness and learn something for their courage in adversity. Many subsequently decide to go on helping Palestinians in other ways.

Some volunteers have returned to Palestine to work in various capacities (e.g. on the staff of Birzeit University and as UNRWA personnel).

Two excellent books on Gaza by ex-volunteers have been published: "Bantustan Gaza" by Richard Locke and Alistair Stewart, "Stateless in Gaza" by Paul Cossali and Clive Robson.

MERC (Middle East Resource Centre), started and run by former Unipal volunteers, has helped to bring Palestine before the British public, especially on T.V. and radio.

CAABU (Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding) has drawn on our ex-volunteers for staff; and the CRAG (CAABU Religious Affairs Group) newsletter has been edited by former volunteers.

The first QPS (Quaker Peace and Service) coordinator for their Middle East volunteer programme was originally a Unipal volunteer and a number of QPS volunteers have had their first experience of the Middle East through Unipal.

Returned volunteers have also worked with MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians) and in the Middle East section of Amnesty International.

Apart from this, the Unipal experience has awakened volunteers to world needs in general and they have gone on to work

with such charities as Oxfam, Marie Stopes International.

Last but by no means least, former volunteers have helped Unipal to continue its own work: by fund-raising (Flag Days, sponsored walks, concerts, etc), interviewing prospective volunteers, helping with Unipal's Palestinian visitors and in the office, and by recruiting fresh volunteers in their universities.

The origins of Unipal

Unipal came into being in 1972 after its founder, a Cambridge teacher, had visited the Middle East and been appalled not only by the suffering of the Palestinian

refugees but by the fact that it had continued, increasingly, since 1948 — and been largely misrepresented and therefore ignored in the West. She felt that worthwhile help could be given by people in Britain, above all in education.

Her first support came from Cambridge but afterwards other universities and concerned people joined in. Unipal is now funded by donations from individuals and as well as by various colleges, trusts and the O.D.A. (Overseas Development Administration), who sponsor specific projects.

## Children are main victims of malnutrition in Romania

By Irina Bosny-Ghica

Reuter

VARBILA, Romania — Standing in a mud-covered village street, Nicoleta, a chestnut-haired, green-eyed little girl is striving to bite into an orange as though it were an apple, giving it a curious look from time to time. "She is eight years old although she does not look more than four, but the lack of basic food has prevented her from growing to the normal size," her mother said.

"She has never seen oranges, so she does not know how to eat them," she added, bursting into tears.

Nicoleta was among a group of more than 930 children from villages around Bucharest who got the oranges as part of an aid package from the French humanitarian organisation Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF).

MSF collected 7,000 parcels of food, clothes, medicines and school books from Parisians and transported them to Romania with the help of the French post office, who loaned them 16 mail lorries.

In Varbila, 60 kilometres northeast of the capital, children in shabby clothes were fighting to get a precious parcel containing chocolate, powdered milk, sar-

dines, canned meat, instant soup, and noodles.

"They have been here since this morning, waiting, and they have not slept all night, excited by the news that the lorry was coming," said headmaster Ion Matei.

Nicoleta's mother said her three children were abnormally small for their age because of malnutrition.

She said peasants, unlike town-dwellers, were not even allowed to have meat rations under dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was overthrown and executed last December.

"In the last five years, I have never bought a kilo of meat," Nicoleta's mother said, clutching a woolly jumper her daughter had got in her parcel.

"There is no milk in the village because nobody could afford to feed a cow after the state took all the land from people in Ceausescu's days," one peasant said.

"In a nearby village there is a cow, but what can you do with one ill-fed cow for 300 inhabitants?" asked Matei, shrugging his shoulders.

Matei said that for those who were fortunate enough to get hold of a bottle of milk, the black market price was 15 lei (25 cents at the unofficial rate), the equivalent of a peasant's wages for a

By Mariam M. Shahin

## Voices from within

IN times of war and in the face of hunger, imprisonment, torture, the fear of expulsion and the ever-looming possibility of premature death, one may not expect that the affected people would pay much attention or devote much time to the likes of poetry, tales, music or painting.

It may indeed seem strange to many that poets and musicians, in particular, are flourishing in the occupied Arab territories. That young men in prison camps are writing poems of love. Love of their country and its thyme and olive trees: symbols of the identity that Palestinians cherished and hung to the last 40 years. Is it a reaffirmation that they too are territorial, like all other peoples and would fight and die for their freedom rather than be forgotten?

One of the hundreds of young Palestinians who is writing poetry is Hassan Awwad. She is one of 800,000 people who has endured the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza since 1967. Although Awwad, born in Jerusalem in 1951, in no way resembles the stone-throwing youth so often portrayed in the media, she still fights the occupation but on a different front. In a recent visit to Amman she agreed to speak to Focus on People about her role in the cultural life of 1990 Palestine and the role of the written word, the musical note, the brushstroke in the intifada.

The role that the arts play in support of the national consciousness, boosting the moral of the masses in the West Bank and Gaza today, has its roots in the experiences of the last half a century of struggle between the Palestinians and the Zionist state, Awwad explains.

While the end of the British mandate and the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948 uprooted hundreds of thousands of people from their homes, the 1967 occupation is considered by many Palestinians and Arabs alike as the "greatest catastrophe."

"Out of the great catastrophe grew a new generation of Arabs, a generation that lived in constant mourning," Awwad asserts. "The cultural life of the Arabs of Palestine after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war took on a new and very political dimension. There was a disappointment, constant lamentation in all that was written. While the new refugees in Jordan and Syria, as well as the Arabs at large felt shame and humiliation, we had to live with Israel," Awwad says.

The tone of the music and the rhythm of the poetry began to change as the occupation lasted and lasted and lasted. Yes, we looked outside for Godot when really little Godots were growing up amongst us," Awwad says.

"The child in the camp could recite Kanafani, Darwish, Kaseem and Habibi," Awwad says, referring to famous Palestinian poets and writers. Although the mothers were often illiterate, she says, they too knew how to recite the poetry of "liberation." The poets were everywhere, not just in the West Bank and Gaza, but in Haifa, Nazareth, Beirut, Amman and Kuwait.

While thousands of Palestinians who grew up outside the occupied territories were denied proper cultural education, children under occupation learned to sing and recite poetry on the streets of their villages, towns, camps and cities.

"As the years passed the songs grew more fervent and the poetry stronger. Every generation grew more adamant of the occupation. Musicians and writers were often banned or imprisoned; their work confiscated. (The Israelis) even killed Kanafani for his writing," Awwad

says referring to the assassination of Ghasan Kanafani by Israeli agents in 1974 in Beirut.

Awwad, too, did not escape the harassment of the Israeli authorities for alleged links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. In 1979 she was arrested, and although she was not physically tortured, "the mental torture was enough, thank you," she says of her three-month imprisonment.

"The resistance began before Dec. 1967. In our songs and writings, even in our plays and paintings it has been going on for 20 years. Now it has come to a peak and the volcano has exploded," Awwad says.

During the last 20 years and on countless occasions the flags were raised, the children shot, hundreds were either deported, tortured, imprisoned, persecuted or killed and Godot did not come," Awwad says remembering her musician brother, Riad Awwad, who was imprisoned and tortured in Israeli jails until recently.

A few weeks before the intifada began, in December 1987, Hassan Awwad wrote of the eruption which was the natural outcome of the brooding volcano in a poem entitled "It's for the knight to triumph".

On the summit of the red volcano  
In the land planted with thyme  
Oh, my greatest joy,  
Oh, my greatest joy,  
Oh, home of sorrows, do erupt!  
Oh, home of sorrows, do erupt!

Shall we worship other gods  
In the shade of your ashes  
And hang on the gallows  
On your stalks?

Do we forget  
That we belong to a pregnant earth?  
Do we forget  
That we are of a bigger root?  
Oh, home of sorrows, do erupt!  
Oh, home of sorrows, do erupt!

Do the people know my poems or those of others? Yes they do! Poems are recited even by those in prison. They are not passed on paper but by word of mouth," Awwad asserts.

Despite the desolate conditions of many people in the territories today, Awwad says that at any cultural activity there is ever enough room for the audience. "Folktroups, playwrights, painters, poets, musicians — everyone works and people go. There hasn't been a book fair in the territories which has closed without 80 per cent of its books sold," Awwad says.

In one of her most recent works, written during the intifada, Awwad wrote:  
I passed unto you  
I passed places of estrangement  
I passed the lava of the volcano

From the poles of our test...  
From our shores  
From our sand  
From our sea

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**Ext. 223**



# Iran fails to prop up rial

DUBAI (Agencies) — Iran's central bank has given up an attempt to bolster the free market exchange rate of the rial, whose weakness is causing serious harm to the economy, Iranian bankers say.

In Dubai, the main centre for the uncontrolled rial market, the rial has slumped to peacetime lows of 1,400 to the dollar, traders said.

Stabilisation of the rial has been a central policy of the government of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, which has said exchange rate problems are at the root of the country's economic malaise.

The bankers said the central bank had stopped setting a special rate against the dollar for selected Iranian firms and government institutions which do business outside Iran.

The special rate was introduced in October to try to bring down and then stabilise the free market rial, which has for years fluctuated on the uncontrolled market at 15 to 20 times the fixed official

exchange rate. That rate, which was the official rate for all foreign transactions before the special rate was introduced, is about 70 to the dollar.

Iran's currency reserves of an estimated \$5 billion to \$7 billion (excluding gold) were too small to support the cost of the special rate scheme for long, Iranian economists have said.

The central bank found itself in the same difficulties as Western central banks which try to buck market trends by intervention.

"Whatever they did, it just gave a temporary shock to the market," said one Iranian economist.

In January the free market rate was 1,000 to the dollar. Two weeks ago the central bank dropped its special rate to around 1,200 to the dollar without the normal public announcement, traders said.

That move signalled the central bank was effectively giving up its bid to support the rial, sparking a further fall in the free market

rate. Bankers said it was unclear whether Tehran would try any new policies to strengthen the rial, whose weakness has hurt ordinary Iranians by raising prices of imported consumer goods.

Iran's factories, neglected during the 1980-88 war with Iraq and still plagued by corruption, cannot meet domestic needs.

Western bankers in the Gulf believe Iran should acknowledge economic reality by devaluing the official rial rate.

"They need to face the pain of a massive devaluation. But then they would have to sustain the pain by controlling the ensuing inflation, or they would rapidly slip the way of a country like Argentina," said one senior banker.

Meanwhile, a senior Iranian official announced Sunday that President Hashemi Rafsanjani's five-year development plan includes the creation of about two million new jobs starting from 1990, the official Islamic Repub-

lic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Labour Minister Hussein Kamali was speaking to managers of state-run industries during a nationwide seminar supervised by Iran's National Industries Organisation.

IRNA said Kamali emphasised in his speech on the need to improve the technical and vocational skills of Iran's workers. He also disclosed that the five-year plan has allocated a fund of \$100 million to the ministries of labour, education, culture and higher education.

Rafsanjani Saturday promised reform and called for boosting industrial production to overcome the soaring economic crisis, caused by eight years of war with Iraq.

The president's office also set up a 24-hour hotline to handle complaints from the Iranian people, who reportedly went out in the streets last week, protesting continued inflation, unemployment and shortages of basic commodities.

## Gulf Arab states stay split over oil output

DUBAI (R) — Major Gulf oil producers Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq are still haggling over short-term interests despite a show of unity, oil analysts in the Gulf said Sunday.

Oil ministers of the three states met in Kuwait Saturday and a statement afterwards said the talks resulted in complete agreement on the need to support OPEC resolutions.

But shortly after the meeting, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said a surprise visit to Baghdad as a personal envoy of King Fahd to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Analysts believed this was part of attempts to resolve differences which threatened to persist during the 13-member group's market monitoring committee meeting in Vienna on March 16.

Gulf oil officials and analysts said Saturday that Saudi Arabia, main producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), had sided with Iraq against Kuwait in seeking higher oil prices.

"Iraq is facing difficulty in selling crude, so it wants to compensate with higher prices," one analyst said.

Saudi Arabia and Iraq also wanted Kuwait to abide by its quota of 1.5 million barrels a day, the analysts said.

"The Saudi position is that they stick to their OPEC quota and expect others to do likewise," a Gulf oil official who is close to Saudi government thinking told Reuters Saturday.

Kuwait does not want oil prices to exceed OPEC's reference price of \$18 per barrel so its European retail outlets can sell more, the sources said.

But the analysts told Reuters Saudi Arabia, struggling to offset a budget deficit of \$6.7 billion for 1990, and Iraq would like the price to be around \$20.

The three share the same views on long-term oil policy because they have around 40 per cent of the world's known reserves and plan to boost output to match predicted growth in world demand in the next 10 years.

But in the short term, prices are expected to decline gradually due to seasonally lower second quarter demand and continued quota busting by some OPEC members.

A Reuters survey completed Friday showed that Kuwait pumped some 400,000 barrels a day more than its share in January and February.

Oil industry sources said Kuwait's extra barrels were competing with heavy crude sales from Iran and Iraq.

Iraq, which needs foreign currency to finance reconstruction after the eight-year war with Iran, sold around 100,000 barrels per day (b/d) less in February than its OPEC limit of 3.14 million barrels a day.

The survey also showed Iran was nearly 400,000 barrels a day below quota. Egypt's Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandeel said last week that a growing conflict of interest among OPEC members might wreck the oil cartel.

"The conflict of interest between OPEC members involved in the downstream business and those who are not could sabotage OPEC," he told Reuters in an interview.

Egypt is a significant oil producer but not a member of OPEC. "They are heavily involved in the downstream business to the service station level so the lower the crude prices the more profits they make," Kandeel added.

## Bush, Kaifu promise to resolve trade disputes

RANCHO MIRAGE, California (R) — U.S. President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, calling each other by their first names, promised Saturday to step up their efforts to resolve trade disputes between Washington and Tokyo.

Bush said he and Kaifu, who flew 10 hours across the Pacific for a visit of just 24 hours, "are calling on our officials to redouble their efforts to achieve meaningful results."

"Together we must master our problems," Bush said in a statement.

Kaifu, standing side by side with Bush, conceded that "the (trade) imbalances are still very large, and we should continue to work harder."

He said reforms to make Japan's economic structure more receptive to American exports are "one of the top priorities of my new cabinet."

But Bush conceded the talks had not produced specific commitments or deadlines for action.

"We weren't here to throw down definitive deadlines. That's not the way to deal with Japanese in my view," he said at an outdoor news conference after the formal statements.

"I don't know that we need new ideas, we just need new energy on both sides," he added at another point.

Bush, under rising political pressure to retaliate because of the \$49 billion deficit in U.S.

trade with Japan said American exports to Japan were climbing faster than sales to any other country and that the U.S. trade deficit with Japan was declining.

He vowed to resist protectionism and declared:

"Make no mistake about it, I want to see that (trade) deficit come down, not by restricting our markets or managing trade, but by further increasing our exports."

But Bush and Kaifu both stressed the need to reduce the massive U.S. budget deficit and, in a bow to Japanese concerns about recent declines in the value of the yen against the dollar, both men said Washington was firmly committed to coordination of exchange rate policies.

"But let's face it. These talks are a two-way street. We Americans must increase our savings, reduce our budget deficit, focus on producing goods of the highest quality," Bush said and added: "That is a task for America, not for Japan."

Bush went out of his way to thank Kaifu for travelling so far with just a week's notice and referred to the Japanese leader as "my good friend, Toshiki." Kaifu referred to Bush as "George" at three different points in his remarks.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said they addressed each other by first names throughout the two day talks. Bush noted that the two coun-

tries face deadlines under U.S. law to avoid American sanctions.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills has until April 30 to identify countries guilty of unfair trade practices and subject to punitive sanctions.

Last year, Hills cited Japan for its closed markets in lumber products, satellites and supercomputers. By mid-June it must show its markets have been opened to avoid sanctions.

Bush said he hoped to avoid sanctions, but added: "Both sides understand U.S. law on this."

The two leaders sought to focus on positive elements in relations between their countries — both relegated the trade discord until the end of their public remarks.

They vowed joint efforts to aid the new democracies in Eastern Europe and Latin America with Bush praising Japan's pledge of \$2 billion for Hungary and Poland.

"The United States and Japan are working together to promote political and economic transformations that will strengthen democracies and market economies," Bush said.

They also agreed that despite tentative U.S. plans to cut its troop levels in Asia, a continued American military presence in Asia was essential to regional stability.

"I value the continued role of the United States... as a Pacific power, which is irreplaceable," Kaifu said.

## Western businessmen find the going tough in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Four weeks after McDonald's brought fast food to Moscow, the average queuing time for hamburgers is still about two hours as Soviet citizens line up around Pushkin Square for a taste of America.

The initial runaway success of a project so alien to the Soviet way of life suggests, on the surface at least, that Western businessmen contemplating joint ventures need only sign the documents and wait for the money to roll in.

But the truth is very different. A vast majority of ventures forged in the past 12 months by euphoria over President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika are not even up and running.

An economic crisis and policy differences within the Politburo over the pace of economic reform have added to confusion generated by a mass of legislation now regulating ventures between Soviet and Western companies.

"The first rush of enthusiasm is over and businessmen are finding out it is a hard slog," said John Allen, director of the Anglo-Soviet Chamber of Commerce. "We are definitely moving into a cooling off period."

In the first two months of this year the number of officially registered joint ventures has actually risen to about 1,450 from 1,274 at the end of 1989, itself a six-fold rise during that year. West German, Finnish, U.S., British and Austrian firms top a list of 54 nations in that order.

But Richard Dean, attorney in Moscow with the international law firm Conder Brothers, estimates that less than 200 ventures are actually in operation and says the legal framework is becoming more complicated by the day.

And, although the number of ventures is still rising, he estimates the average amount of foreign investment has declined to less than \$1 million. Actual cash investment per venture is now less than \$115,000, the clearest indicator of a sober new

mood among Western businessmen.

"With every turn of the ratchet, it is getting more complex and confused," Dean told Reuters.

"From the point of view of a law firm, no one in the Soviet Union seems to be coordinating or taking responsibility. There is some strategy and some making it up as they go along. They are having a hard time identifying priorities," he noted.

Soviet policy-makers decided in January, 1987, to promote foreign investment as part of Gorbachev's campaign to open the economy to the West to help revitalise it.

With the exception of East Germany, all other major communist nations, including China, had already made moves to attract foreign capital several years earlier.

Dean reckons there are now 22 individual Soviet decrees or ministerial directives governing joint ventures and expects a promised reform and simplification of the legal framework will not materialise until 1991.

Western businessmen say the biggest single hurdle is profit repatriation or, in plain language, how to avoid getting a pile of roubles that cannot be converted into hard Western currency.

Only a few giants such as McDonald's can afford to take a long-term view of the Soviet market of 280 million citizens, reinvesting its rouble profits in the country in the hope that economic reform will one day lead to a

convertible currency.

"If you are looking for quick profits, then a joint venture in the Soviet Union is not for you," said Peter Farnham, group representative of Barclays Bank PLC here. "But if you are prepared to invest with a 15-year horizon and are looking for a market share, then there is enormous potential."

Radical Soviet economists such as Ole Bogomolov, director of the Institute of the Economy of the World Socialist System, are calling for a parallel, convertible rouble to be introduced specifically to foster joint ventures and free economic zones.

But Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has made it clear that currency reform is not likely to be tackled quickly.

The rouble problem is now clearly the main factor dictating the shape of joint ventures, with a rash of recent deals seeking to cash in on the needs of a captive clientele of foreign visitors desperate for hire cars and business services.

But Soviet officials are showing growing impatience at ventures which do nothing to relieve the huge shortages of basic foodstuffs and consumer items throughout the country.

Because of the need to generate foreign exchange, many ventures are now seeking to combine the Soviet Union's vast natural resource wealth in oil, gas and timber with Western technology to turn out finished products for export.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, March 4, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	671.0	675.0	
Pound Sterling	1108.2	1114.8	
Deutschmark	390.4	392.7	
Swiss franc	443.6	446.3	
French franc	115.8	116.5	
Japanese yen (for 100)	446.3	449.0	
Dutch guilder	346.6	348.7	
Swedish crown	109.3	110.0	
Italian lira (for 100)	53.0	53.3	
Belgian franc (for 10)	188.1	189.2	

## Experts discuss obstacles to inter-Arab investments

KUWAIT (R) — Arab investment experts met in Kuwait Sunday to discuss ways of boosting inter-Arab commercial investment, which they say plunged by 50 per cent during the 1980s.

"The problems and impediments that face Arab private investment flows are manifold," said Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan, head of the Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corp (IAGC).

"While we (agree) they exist we differ on determining their relative importance," he told the IAGC-sponsored conference. "It is also difficult to deal with those issues in the absence of basic documented facts."

Hassan said that during the 1980s commercial investment within the Arab World plunged to around \$3 billion from 6.2 billion in the previous decade.

A sharp fall in surplus capital due to lower oil prices was a major factor but political instability and a generally unfavourable investment climate were also obstacles, he said.

Mohiedien Al Hareeb, chief executive of Egypt's Investment Authority, said the dominant role of public sector spending in many Arab countries limited project opportunities and the power of investment agencies to approve projects independently.

Investment laws should not differentiate between foreigners and nationals or limit the stake of foreign firms in local projects, he said.

Governments should reassure private investors that there would be no interference in their projects and investment agencies should process work permits for foreigners more quickly, he said. "Investors are reluctant to go to agencies which have routine bureaucratic problems like these," he said.

IAGC operations director Abdul Rahman Taha told Reuters the total value of contracts signed by the firm during 1989 fell to \$99 million from \$239 million in 1988.

He said this was mainly due to the fact that the IAGC — owned by 22 Arab governments — had reached its exposure ceiling for Iraq, which had provided most of the demand for guarantee cover.

"The problem in the Arab World is that countries which have money don't have investment opportunities while the countries which do, don't have any money," he said.

The IAGC was set up in 1974 to encourage investment flows between Arab states by providing guarantees for non-commercial risks such as nationalisation, non-repatriation of capital and war.

## Greek premier accuses three political parties for crippling economy

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Xenophon Zolotas has accused the country's political parties of crippling the economy and then stalling attempts to revive it.

Zolotas was appointed by the country's three major political parties in November to lead a coalition after two inconclusive elections in 1989. He had a mandate to deal with pressing economic problems and was expected to take drastic measures.

But the conservative, socialist and communist parties dissolved the coalition on Feb. 12. Party leaders claimed that the government was hamstringing in taking difficult decisions. Zolotas now heads a caretaker government until elections on April 8.

"The climate we tried to establish from the very start in order to support economic recovery was poisoned, unfortunately, by the frequent attacks against the government which was described as powerless and incapable of accomplishing its mission," Zolotas said at a foreign press association luncheon.

"This kind of criticism was anything but constructive to the government's efforts," he added.

The coalition's priority was to halt the growth of a public sector deficit estimated at 1.9 trillion drachmas (\$12 billion) in 1989 by reducing spending and increasing revenues.

Despite spending cuts of about 1 trillion drachmas (\$6 billion) the revenues were not increased, Zolotas said.

"With the exception of a small rise in certain taxes and in the rates of some public utilities in early December, almost no other effective action has been taken to

increase revenues because the three parties... were unwilling to take it," he said.

He accused party leaders of stalling on further proposals to reduce the deficit and create a more favourable climate for investments.

"All these bills would have been passed if all the political members of the cabinet had not been suddenly withdrawn," Zolotas said.

The 85-year-old former central bank governor blamed "unforgivable inertia" in 1989 for existing deficits becoming even larger.

In that year the conservative New Democracy Party beat the Panhellenic Socialist Movement in June elections but failed to win an absolute majority in the 300-member unicameral parliament.

A short-lived conservative-communist coalition concentrated chiefly on indicting former premier Andreas Papandreu and senior socialists of involvement in financial scandals. No trial dates have been set.

Elections in November again resulted in a hung parliament and the formation of Zolotas' government, in which the socialists were included.

Zolotas accused the eight-year Papandreu administration of creating the "rapacious public deficit" with its policies.

"For years there has been an overexpression of the public sector with a social policy the economy could ill afford. The attempt to emphasise the so-called welfare state did not succeed to any significant extent since it was not accompanied by a parallel attempt to bring about substantial productive investments," Zolotas said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 5, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The early AM finds you with a good chance to get an excellent new approach at life and extend your success far beyond present avenues of expression. Avoid an imposition this evening.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Put yourself in the position to go on jammis with interesting friends. Do the favours that your loved one especially desires of you.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Try to get along better with an interesting friend who confuses you. Show special affection to available members of your family now.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Work out a better course of action to have your home run smoothly. Concentrating on romance now will bring much happiness to your mate.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Put extra charm in any entertaining at your own residence; many friends and acquaintances. Your home will be where your heart is now, spend some time there.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Ditch treat is the best way to have harmony at amusements with your friends. Back your attachment in the putting across of that person's talents.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Entertaining good friends in private will now bring the greatest amount of happiness to them and to you.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Organising future engagements with friends will produce good results. Travel as much as possible today with your attachment.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Show friends you value their association by doing what they wish. Get some attractive gift for your loved one that will be enjoyed.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Outside activities of a social nature should be pleasant and encouraged. Show that you are an understanding person about problems at home.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Don't get involved in a bitter argument between two close friends. Bring into the open now that special favour you can do for your attachment.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Make your home available to newcomers who can help you in important ways. A good day to straighten out any emotional problems with your mate.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) New friends will now bring you more pleasure than long time ones. Give your attachment some well deserved praise that will be enjoyed.

**Today's child:** If your child were born today he or she will have an urge in dash off a new appeals, which result in positive action only at times indicated in personal horoscope as periods to seek pioneering vocations and outlets.

## THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller

ACROSS

- 1 Nathaniel or Rebecca
- 2 Can. law go
- 3 Roman road
- 4 "Lou Grant"
- 5 Lima's state
- 6 Fortnight
- 7 Quibble
- 8 Hire out
- 9 Pianist Peter's
- 10 Blacker
- 11 Galilee
- 12 miracle town
- 13 1900
- 14 Synthetic yarn
- 15 Treads the boards
- 16 Nautical
- 17 Japanese
- 18 Dwarf buffalo
- 19 "Skiark"
- 20 insignificant
- 21 Vestment
- 22 Feather prof.
- 23 Gr. bishop
- 24 contenders
- 25 Not active
- 26 Grand story
- 27 Cap brime
- 28 Thief
- 29 Bunk
- 30 Delusé flick
- 31 hero line
- 32 Assimilation
- 33 US
- 34 Bonet of TV
- 35 Psychologist
- 36 Bettelheim
- 37 Light color
- 38 Minus
- 39 Perilous
- 40 Round Table
- 41 seat
- 42 Only
- 43 departures
- 44 opus
- 45 Cummerbund
- 46 To — (all)
- 47 Sound
- 48 Curability
- 49 Omphidian
- 50 Col. boss
- 51 Recounts

DOWN

- 1 Minn.'s neighbor
- 2 Ma Kett
- 3 Curability
- 4 Amtrak
- 5 Employee
- 6 Binge
- 7 Tawdry words
- 8 Departed
- 9 Sign of a hit
- 10 "hynoh"
- 11 Treits
- 12 Painter Joan
- 13 Whale groups
- 14 Kind
- 15 Cell material
- 16 Like some diplomatic language
- 17 Wardrobe
- 18 Spinal cord: prof.
- 19 Comp. pt.
- 20 Puccini
- 21 To — (all)
- 22 Sound
- 23 Curability
- 24 Omphidian
- 25 Col. boss
- 26 Recounts
- 27 La Scala offerings
- 28 Equitation
- 29 were
- 30 king
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- 36 Burden
- 37 Certain
- 38 60 Actress
- 39 Caldwell

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

- 1 NATHANIEL
- 2 CAN. LAW
- 3 ROMAN ROAD
- 4 LOU GRANT
- 5 LIMA'S STATE
- 6 FORTNIGHT
- 7 QUibble
- 8 HIRE OUT
- 9 PIANIST PETER'S
- 10 BLACKER
- 11 GALILEE
- 12 MIRACLE TOWN
- 13 1900
- 14 SYNTHETIC YARN
- 15 TREADS THE BOARDS
- 16 NAUTICAL
- 17 JAPANESE
- 18 DWARF BUFFALO
- 19 SKIARK
- 20 INSIGNIFICANT
- 21 VESTMENT
- 22 FEATHER PROF.
- 23 GR. BISHOP
- 24 CONTENDERS
- 25 NOT ACTIVE
- 26 GRAND STORY
- 27 CAP BRIME
- 28 THIEF
- 29 BUNK
- 30 DELUSÉ FLICK
- 31 HERO LINE
- 32 ASSIMILATION
- 33 US
- 34 BONET OF TV
- 35 PSYCHOLOGIST
- 36 BETTELHEIM
- 37 LIGHT COLOR
- 38 MINUS
- 39 PERILOUS
- 40 ROUND TABLE
- 41 SEAT
- 42 ONLY
- 43 DEPARTURES
- 44 OPUS
- 45 CUMMERBUND
- 46 TO — (ALL)
- 47 SOUND
- 48 CURABILITY
- 49 OMPHIDIAN
- 50 COL. BOSS
- 51 RECOUNTS

DOWN

- 1 MINN.'S NEIGHBOR
- 2 MA KETT
- 3 CURABILITY
- 4 AMTRAK
- 5 EMPLOYEE
- 6 BINGE
- 7 TAWDRY WORDS
- 8 DEPARTED
- 9 SIGN OF A HIT
- 10 "HYNOH"
- 11 TREITS
- 12 PAINTER JOAN
- 13 WHALE GROUPS
- 14 KIND
- 15 CELL MATERIAL
- 16 LIKE SOME DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE
- 17 WARDROBE
- 18 SPINAL CORD: PROF.
- 19 COMP. PT.
- 20 PUCCINI
- 21 TO — (ALL)
- 22 SOUND
- 23 CURABILITY
- 24 OMPHIDIAN
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## Navratilova advances to Indian Wells final

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova rode her strong serve to a 7-6, 6-1 victory over Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria Saturday and advanced to Sunday's final in the Virginia Slims of Indian Wells tournament.

Navratilova, aiming for her third 1990 title, will meet third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, who defeated Amy Frazier 7-5, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

Navratilova, who hasn't lost a set this year, fell behind 6-5 in the first set before serving up three consecutive aces to force a tiebreaker. In the tiebreaker, she had another ace to put her up 4-2, then won the next four points to take the set.

In the second set, Maleeva could not hold her serve and fell behind 5-0 before winning the sixth game. Navratilova closed out the match with another ace.

"In that first set I played two lousy games, but I was still able to break back," Navratilova said.

"In the tiebreaker, I turned it up a notch. I knew I had the edge there. My tiebreaker record (135-65) is pretty good."

"It's the first time I've been down 5-4 all year."

Maleeva said Navratilova's first-set aces took away her momentum.

"It was demoralising to see three aces in a row," she said. "I think she was thinking she would have an easier time with me, but I just played my game."

"She's not dangerous on the baseline, but you still have to play the big shots against her. When she's in trouble she knows how to get out of trouble."

In Sukova, Navratilova faces an all-too-familiar opponent. Sukova stopped Navratilova's 74-match winning streak in the semifinals of the 1984 Australian Open and spoiled her chances of a Grand Slam that year.

"Of all the ones in my career, I'd like to have that one back," said Navratilova, who holds a 22-4 edge against Sukova. "I blew it."

"I have not played well against her. She has a happy-go-lucky attitude when she plays me."

The tournament winner earns \$70,000, with the runner-up collecting \$28,000.

Sukova didn't have an easy time against 18-year-old Frazier, a newcomer who turned pro in January and gained her first tournament title at the recent Virginia Slims of Oklahoma.

## Kasparov wins Linares tourney

LINALES, Spain (R) — World champion Garry Kasparov won the finals of the Linares chess tournament Saturday thanks to a series of blunders by Spanish grandmaster Miguel Illescas.

The Soviet champion and Illescas had been heading for a draw which would have made the Soviet Union's Boris Gelfand

winner of the tournament because he had scored more wins.

But Illescas, who later said he was exhausted, committed errors that gave Kasparov victory.

Kasparov's win, after 61 moves of a tarash defence in six hours and 61 moves, does not however increase his world ranking of 2,800 points.

## Gilbert races to victory

ROTTERDAM (R) — Top seeded American Brad Gilbert wasted little time in beating Jonas Svensson of Sweden 6-1, 6-3 in the final of the 900,000-guilder (\$473,000) Rotterdam Indoor tennis Grand Prix Sunday.

Seventh seed Svensson struggled to settle into the match and had to claw back five break points to save his first service game.

Gilbert had cranked up his game after Saturday's unimpressive semifinal against unseeded Michael Tansou of Denmark. A sharper first serve and aggressive rallying smoothed his way

through the first set.

The second set looked like going the same way until Svensson, at 3-0 down, stopped making unforced errors and broke Gilbert's service. Finding the appetite for a fight, the Swede held his serve and broke Gilbert again to level the score.

But the uprising was brief. Gilbert replied by taking the next three games for victory.

The triumph should give Gilbert comfort after his early round defeats to unseeded players in San Francisco and Philadelphia last month.

## Sanchez gives Real last-gasp win

SEVILLE Spain (R) — Two goals in the last five minutes gave Real Madrid a 2-1 away win over Sevilla Saturday and stretched their runaway lead in the Spanish soccer first division to 10 points.

Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez clinched Real's victory with his 29th goal of the season two minutes from the final whistle after Emilio Butragueno had given the Madrid side a lifeline.

Five minutes from the end Pao Llorente scooped the ball back from the byline for Butragueno to put Real on terms after it had looked as if a 36th-minute strike by Uruguayan midfielder Pablo Bengoechea might be enough for a Sevilla win.

Three minutes later, a foul against Rafael Martin Vazquez gave Real a free-kick 30 metres from goal. Sanchez looperd his kick over the Sevilla defensive wall and it bounced in off a post.

Real, heading for their fifth

consecutive league title, have scored 81 goals this season and, with 10 games to come, look like beating the record of 96 established by arch-rivals Barcelona.

Real started strongly. Manolo Sanchez dribbled through the Sevilla defence and beat Soviet World Cup keeper Rinat Dasyev, only for his shot to bounce harmlessly off a post.

But Sevilla, though determined, took the lead when Bengoechea pierced the Real defence 10 minutes from halftime.

Sevilla thwarted the second-half attacks of a Real side, which was without suspended West German midfielder Bernd Schuster, and looked like ending the Madrid club's run of 17 matches without defeat.

But Butragueno and Sanchez turned the tables and a save by goalkeeper Pao Bujo 30 seconds from the end, which denied Austrian striker Anton Polster, clinched it for Real.

## Iraq withdraws from Gulf tournament

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq agreed with the Saudi Arabia to withdraw its team from the Gulf Cup soccer championship that started 10 days ago and inaugurate a new tournament of their own, according to Gulf press reports Sunday.

In Baghdad, press reports quoted an unidentified spokesman of the Iraqi Soccer Federation as saying Saudi Arabia warned Iraq not to take part in the championship because "it is contaminated with nuclear weather."

Saudi Arabia withdrew its own team right before the tournament started because it considered the

emblem insulting.

The Iraqi spokesman said Oudai Hussein, son of President Saddam Hussein, and Prince Faisal, son of King Fahd, agreed to organise a new championship "to be the true and clean face of Arab sports away from groupings and axes."

Both men are heads of their countries' respective soccer associations.

The announcement of the Iraqi withdrawal came a day after its national team held World Cup finalists United Arab Emirates to a draw 2-2. The tie in a tense game was considered a major

victory.

The Iraqi spokesman said the match between Iraq and the Emirates was marred by fighting. The referee expelled the captain of the Iraqi team, Adnan Darjal, and the Emirates scored on a penalty kick which the Iraqis believed was unjustified.

Iraq is current champion and the favourite along with Kuwait to win the tournament scheduled to end March 9. Both had four points each as of Saturday night. The tournament also includes teams from Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The Iraqi spokesman said Iraq

made the decision to withdraw "in view of the fact that sports have been used to divide the Arab Nation instead of uniting it."

"Our participation aimed at enhancing the brotherly spirit among Arabs... and not making sports a means to divide the Arab Nation," the press quoted the spokesman as saying.

Saudi withdrew its team from the tournament five days before it started because of the two horses used in the emblem. They were famous for their key role in getting reinforcements to repel a Saudi invasion of Kuwait in the 1920s.

## TV time soccer plan brings shock reaction

By Larry Siddons  
The Associated Press

LONDON — A plan to extend soccer matches and break them into quarters in hopes of increasing income has shocked players, coaches and officials around the world.

Many of the critics see it as a case of soccer "falling to its knees" to please the biggest potential source of money — American television.

All sides say that years of study are needed before the plan could take effect, and that it might not be ready for 1994, when the United States hosts the World Cup for the first time.

The proposal, if adopted, would mark the biggest change in soccer rules in decades and might routinely be thrown on the scrapheap of far-out ideas that hit all sports.

But the fact that it comes from soccer's international president increases the attention it's getting.

"I cannot comment right now, because it is like a thunderbolt from a clear sky," said Tadao Murata, general secretary of the Japan Football Association.

This bolt from the blue is a proposal by Joao Havelange, president of FIFA, the International Soccer Federation, to drastically change one of the sport's most basic rules — the time of the

match, and the continuity of that time.

Instead of two 45-minute halves, Havelange has proposed four 25-minute quarters.

Television — especially American television — long has complained that the uninterrupted flow of a soccer game makes it difficult to get in commercial breaks. With commercially supported TV increasing throughout Europe, that view may soon spread.

Havelange said this concern — and the change that more commercials could bring more money for FIFA in television rights — was behind his idea.

"Soccer is extremely professional and as such should seek all the means of increasing revenues," Havelange said in an interview with O Globo, a Rio De Janeiro newspaper. "It's important for the growth of the sport."

With the 1994 World Cup to be held in the United States, the prospects of increased revenue from TV are multiplied. Most critics of Havelange's plan say that, while making money is fine, the sport must come first. They note that part of soccer's appeal is the avoidance of gimmicks in its rules.

"It is not a welcome thing for soccer," said Lothar Matthaus, captain of West Germany's national team.

The president of his team, Hermann Neuberger, said the 25-minute break would come just when the action often gets going in a soccer match. "Much stimulation... would be lost," he said.

Michel D'Hooghe, a member of FIFA's executive committee from Belgium, said the Havelange plan would be "a total change of concept... it is one of the cornerstones of soccer to keep the house in order. The simplicity of the rules is one of the main advantages of the sport."

"The media and publicity interests are clear," said Aldin Kuemaen, general secretary of the Swiss Soccer Federation. "But soccer has other interests."

Those interests should not include the commercial whims of one of the few nations in the world where soccer is not number one, according to the manager of a top West German club.

"This has to do with falling to the knees before the American television institutions," Werder Bremen manager Willie Lemke said. "I don't agree with the necessity of a change just because the Americans have failed to make soccer popular in their country."

From the other side of the world, a Japanese manager agreed.

"If the proposed rule is adopted, I would feel disappointed, as soccer would be more an Americanized sport and would lose the traditional features of soccer originated in England," said Toshikiko Shiozawa, manager of the Ana football club in Tokyo.

Most officials interviewed in an Associated Press survey in a dozen soccer-crazy countries around the world said the sport's rules cannot be changed overnight.

"I am not at all sure something like this will be ready for '94," D'Hooghe said.

Havelange, in his Brazilian interview, noted that the four-quarter idea had been around from other sources for about 15 years without gathering much interest. He also recognised the lengthy process involved in any rule change and said it might be studied in a few low-level leagues, as has been done in experiments with changes in the offside rule.

Soccer's boss found some powerful allies for his proposal. "Anything that works in favour of soccer is good," said Angel Maria Villar, president of the Spanish Soccer Federation. "Soccer should adapt itself to today's commercial and social reality."

His French counterpart, Jean Fournet-Fayard, also said that the purity of the sport "must be balanced by financial and economic concerns."

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAM HIRSH  
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#### A GRAND EFFORT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ A Q 4 3 2  
♥ 6 5 2  
♦ Q J 10  
♣ A

EAST  
♠ K 10 9 7  
♥ Q 9  
♦ 7 5  
♣ K J 7 2

SOUTH  
♠ 6  
♥ A 8 3  
♦ A K 9 8 4 3 2  
♣ 5

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass  
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠.  
The value of a hand against and wanes as the bidding progresses. South's 11 high-card points grew to gigantic proportions and the final action was well judged.

Once North jump-raised diamonds, South could afford to cue-bid the ace of hearts en route to five

diamonds. There was nothing to add after North's first club cue-bid, but when North repeated his action South took stock. To be interested in a grand slam without either of the two top trumps, North had to have the ace of spades as well as first and second-round control of clubs.

Therefore, South's singleton spade represented a key control. Reasoning was translated into action with a jump to seven diamonds.

The accuracy of South's deductions was borne out in the play. Although West's club lead removed a key dummy entry, declarer was still able to manage his assets to yield the maximum return. After winning the ace of clubs, declarer cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade high. Two of dummy's trumps served as entries for two more spade ruffs, the first also high to prevent an overrun, which set up

two long cards in the suit. Declarer was then able to ruff a club on the table and cash the good spades for two heart discards. In all, declarer scored three spade tricks, one heart, seven trumps in hand including three ruffs, one club and one club ruff in dummy for a total of 13 tricks.

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## Filipino army general killed

## Pro-Aquino forces recapture hotel seized by rebel governor

**TUGUEGARAO, Philippines (Agencies)** — A rebel governor and hundreds of armed followers seized a six-storey hotel and several hostages in the northern Philippines Sunday before being forced out in fierce fighting with government troops.

One hostage — Brigadier General Oscar Florendo — died in hospital of bullet wounds received during the uprising, the latest violent challenge to President Corason Aquino.

About 600 rebels led by Rodolfo Aguinado, suspended as governor of Northern Cagayan Province for his alleged part in a December coup attempt against Aquino, took over the hotel in the provincial capital, Tuguegarao, at dawn Sunday.

Fighting echoed through the streets as government forces attacked rebels occupying the ground-floor of the Hotel Delfino and other positions around the town of 100,000 people.

A military spokesman said Florendo, the 51-year-old head of civilian-military relations, was apparently shot by rebel forces as government troops moved

against the hotel where he was held with several of his aides. Aguinado escaped in the fighting, which the military said was continuing in several parts of the town early in the evening.

The casualty toll was unclear but a military spokesman said at least two rebels were killed and several wounded during the clashes in the town, 350 kilometres north of Manila.

President Aquino described the killing of Florendo as an "act of cowardice and treachery" which would be punished.

"I call on all our people to continue to reject violence and uphold our constitutional democracy and the processes of law in a peaceful manner," said Aquino, who has survived six attempts to oust her in four years.

The revolt was sparked by an attempt by the military to serve

an arrest warrant on Aguinado. Like opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile, arrested in Manila last Tuesday, he is charged with rebellion and supporting December's coup attempt.

Enrile, who comes from Cagayan, is due to appear in court Monday. Defying government orders to surrender, Aguinado had held out for several days in the nearby town of Gattaran before taking over the Hotel Delfino with his supporters, who included some 200 defecting soldiers.

Aguino ordered armed forces chief General Renato de Villa to crush the revolt swiftly. "Get this over with as soon as possible," a presidential spokesman quoted her as saying.

Government forces said they cleared the hotel of rebels by late afternoon but that pockets of resistance remained.

Among those trapped in the hotel during the fighting were local government Secretary Luis Santos. Armed forces intelligence Chief Colonel Carlos Tanega, two other senior officers, loc-

al officials, reporters and 34 members of a military choir.

The military said they all escaped unhurt. In Manila, military spokesman Colonel Juanito Rimando said more than 100 of Aguinado's armed supporters had surrendered, including 10 government soldiers who had defected to the former governor.

The Manila regional commander, General Rodolfo Biazon, said it was unlikely the Tuguegarao uprising would start any serious trouble in Manila.

A major move by threat groups similar to December is a very remote thing," he told reporters. "We have patrols out in the national capital region."

A military spokesman said at least two other people were killed Sunday in clashes around Tuguegarao between Aguinado's forces and government troops.

In Manila, a Red Cross official said 10 others were wounded in the fighting but the final figure could increase because scattered clashes were still underway around the city.

## Mongolian protesters demand sweeping resignations

**PEKING (R)** — Thousands of Mongolian protesters marched on parliament in Ulan Bator Sunday clamouring for sweeping resignations in the Communist Party, witnesses said.

Residents of Ulan Bator contacted by telephone said the demonstrators handed an ultimatum to a senior government official demanding the resignations and an emergency session of parliament this month.

"They demanded that the government reply to their petition by Wednesday noon or protesters would go on hunger strike," said a Western resident in the Mongolian capital.

The ultimatum was delivered by four loosely-allied opposition groups campaigning for an end to Mongolia's 69-year-old Communist system.

Shortly after receiving the petition, senior government official B. Luvsansuren emerged from the parliament building to tell a roaring crowd that the government would reply to the demands by Wednesday.

"He said the government would make its reply by television and radio," said one resident who witnessed the rally.

The rally was the seventh staged in Ulan Bator since the first opposition group, the Mongolian Democratic Association, was formed last December. Residents said it was the biggest yet.

"There were about 20,000 people out there, marching with banners," said one resident.

The East German News Agency ADN, monitored in East Berlin, estimated 40,000 people demonstrated in the capital's Suchbator Square.

Estimates of numbers at previous rallies have varied but none have topped 10,000.

The Mongolian Democratic Association held a congress two weeks ago to proclaim itself the country's first opposition party, called the Mongolian Democratic Party (MDP).

The party was swiftly acknowledged by government leaders in what one Foreign Ministry official called "de facto recognition."

The congress elected 610 delegates to petition the government for the resignation of 250 top Communist officials, including the ruling Central Committee and parliament's Council of Ministers.

Marching alongside members of the MDP were three newly-formed groups. All demand a multi-party system in Mongolia, a land three times the size of France wedged between the Soviet Union and China.

On Sunday the four groups demanded an emergency session of parliament open to all political opposition, residents said.

One new group, the New Progressive Association, includes soldiers and officers from the armed forces who have previously remained aloof from the democracy movement, residents said.

The others, the Social Democratic Party and the Mongolian Students Association, are made up mainly of students and intellectuals.

Mongolia's Communist authorities, bowing to pressures similar to those that toppled Socialist governments in Eastern Europe, have granted several concessions to the growing democracy movement.

## Kashmir uprising forces thousands to flee

**JAMMU, India (Agencies)** — A Muslim-inspired uprising in the Kashmir Valley has forced thousands of Hindu and Sikh families to flee after threats to their lives and property, officials in India's Jammu and Kashmir state said Sunday.

Jammu Deputy Police Commissioner Parvez Dewan said in an interview that 7,000 Kashmiri families had fled the troubled valley in recent months and were living in tents on daily rations from the government.

He said militants were trying to prevent Hindus and Sikhs from leaving the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley for Hindu areas of the northern state, wedged between China and Pakistan.

The president of the Kashmir Pandits (Hindu scholars) Association, N.N. Ishnavi, said 14,900 families had fled the valley and were staying at one of seven government camps, or with friends and relatives in Jammu.

He said other families had fled further afield in India.

The exodus from Kashmir started at the end of last year after the state government exchanged five jailed militants for the kidnapped daughter of Indian Home Minister Mufi Mohammad Sayeed in what Hindu's say as a humiliating deal.

Nearly 150 people have died since the government began cracking down on a Muslim militant movement that is seeking either a reunited and independent Kashmir or that it all become part of Pakistan.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir and United Nations military observers are stationed along a 1,400-kilometre ceasefire line that since 1949 has divided the Himalayan territory into two sections, one controlled by India and the other by Pakistan.

One recent refugee, P.N. Pandita who fled from Baramulla district, said he arrived in Jammu, winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, by night to avoid being caught by militant groups.

Local police would not provide protection to those wishing to migrate to Hindu parts of the state, he said.

Another Kashmiri Hindu, who did not want to be identified, said a number of Hindu families had professed Islam as a safety measure.

He showed a circular, allegedly issued by the underground Hizb-ul-Islami — one of 42 Muslim groups fighting against Indian rule — asking militants not to harm Hindu children under 10 so they could eventually be converted to Islam.

"We have fled for the sake of our lives and the honour of our womenfolk," said one Srinagar bank employee who migrated with his wife and two children.

The migrants include more than 1,000 Sikh families, indicating that Sikh militants fighting for independence in neighbouring Punjab state are not allied with Kashmiri Muslims, state officials said.

Sikh males, required by their religion to wear turbans, were being asked to wear green turbans, the colour of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front flag, a Sikh migrant said.

Thousands of Indian troops patrolled Kashmir Valley with orders to shoot curfew violators



on sight, but the Muslim uprising in the state raged on.

Security forces shot one man dead during protests Saturday, witnesses and officials said.

An indefinite curfew was clamped on the valley after army and paramilitary troops killed at least 49 people Thursday as an estimated 1 million Muslim demonstrators converged on Srinagar to press demands for independence from predominantly Hindu India.

The government has refused to say how many troops and paramilitary police are in the valley, but military sources put the number at around 25,000.

In neighbouring Pakistan, a Muslim leader warned India Saturday that his people will invade its troubled state of Jammu-Kashmir, where at least 163 people have died in the uprising.

Sultan Mahmood, president of Azad Muslim Conference, said demonstrators will march to the Pakistani border town of Chakhoti on March 9, the day the mass rally in Indian Kashmir, but "this is only a warning, a dress rehearsal," he said.

"We are going to cross the ceasefire line very soon, in a matter of weeks," he said.

Last month Indian troops fired on Pakistani demonstrators who pushed aside barricades at the border near Chakhoti and swarmed across. Three people were killed and several were wounded. Pakistan and Indian soldiers also exchanged fire for about 30 minutes before calm was restored.

Pakistan has since strengthened its border barricades and Pakistan's military has warned that it will stop any attempted crossing.

"The Pakistan army can't open fire on Kashmiri protesters," said Mahmood. "That would be very unpopular for the government. They can only arrest us," he said.

Indian security forces Saturday reportedly raided six hideouts of militants seeking the independence of Jammu-Kashmir state.

State government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the raids took place after authorities learned at least 100 separatists had taken refuge in homes of sympathisers in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir and the centre of the secessionist movement.

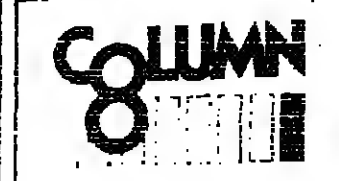
"It was part of an ongoing process to break the back of the terrorists," said one official.

Witnesses said that over the past two days, at least 900 paramilitary police and border guards have arrived in Kashmir by aircraft, and hundreds of soldiers came in trucks.

Nine planes, each carrying 100 men, landed at Srinagar airport Friday night and Saturday morning. Airport sources said more were expected.

Local journalists said the government has asked reporters of non-Kashmiri newspapers and two national news agencies to leave Srinagar.

"They were advised that they could become the targets of the militants. Many have already left," a Kashmiri reporter said.



## Judge to hold jailhouse party

**FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)** — A judge who wants to hold a jailhouse party is sure the well-heeled will pay \$100 each the chance to stay overnight in the jail. "For one night, we could be operating the largest hotel in one city," said Tarrant County Judge Roy English, who proposed a sleep-over party in the 1,400-bed jail at a session Monday of the county commissioners court. The party would show off the new jail, built to ease overcrowding, and raise money for a worthy cause — either a memorial to slain Tarrant County police officers, or a charity such as one that helps the homeless, English said. Sheriff Don Carpenter said he has seen too many jail interiors to pay to get into one, but he likes the idea of showing off the building. "Everyone wants to know what a jail looks like," he said.

## Aurelius rides again in Rome

**ROME (R)** — Marcus Aurelius, the only bronze equestrian figure to ride again on Rome's Capitol Hill next month, over nine years after the ravages of urban pollution forced experts to remove him. City culture spokesman Paolo Battistuzzi has said Romans could view the second-century statue of the philosopher-emperor from April 21, when the city celebrates the anniversary of his birth. To minimise further atmospheric damage, the statue would be displayed in a glass case in the Capitoline Museum rather than returned to the 16th-century pedestal Michelangelo designed for it in the centre of his capitol square.

## Stolen paintings recovered in Turkey

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — A 17th-century painting believed stolen from an Irish collection four years ago has been recovered in Turkey, police said. An official at the Department of Financial Police said that a team of Turkish art experts had determined that the painting is by Gabriel Metsu, a master of Dutch art, from the collection of Sir Alfred Beit in Ireland. The police official, who declined to be identified, said several people had been arrested but he declined to give details. The official said the painting would be shown at the trial which is expected to be held in connection with the case. Several Turkish papers have reported that the painting was one of 18 stolen from the Beit collection.

## Skydiver fired at by Bush guards

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A skydiver who was fired at by a secret service agent after parachuting into the parking lot of the hotel where President George Bush was staying apparently did not know the president was in town, authorities have said. Bush was inside the Century Plaza Hotel during the episode that ended with the arrest of Charles Sweeney, 47, of the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Clarita. Sweeney, arrested at his home hours after the incident, was booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon on a law officer, said police Lt. Al Moen. He was freed on \$3,000 bail on the charge, which stemmed from alleged attempts to run down officers in the getaway car. "There was no threat to the president. He didn't know the president was in town," said secret service agent Jim Miller.

## Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND	W. WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	14	18	M	M
ATHENS	16	20	M	M
BAHRAIN	14	20	27	Clear
BANGKOK	26	34	24	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	18	24	23	Rain
CARACAS	13	25	20	4 Cloudy
CHICAGO	24	25	20	32 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	05	11	08	Clear
FRANKFURT	02	08	07	Cloudy
GENEVA	02	08	06	4 Cloudy
HONG KONG	11	22	12	4 Rain
ISTANBUL	04	18	07	4 Cloudy
LONDON	07	15	12	54 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	13	20	20	Rain
MADRID	01	14	13	52 Clear
MECCA	15	20	08	Clear
MONTREAL	07	19	05	23 Snow
MOSCOW	14	14	11	M
NEW DELHI	09	23	23	72 Clear
NEW YORK	04	10	11	53 Cloudy
PARIS	02	08	10	50 Clear
ROME	08	13	13	55 Clear
SYDNEY	21	29	24	Clear
TOKYO	07	15	11	45 Clear
VIENNA	04	10	09	45 Cloudy

M - Indian missing information.

## Mine explodes in N. Korean tunnel

**SEOUL (R)** — A mine explosion stopped South Korean troops investigating Sunday a newly-found North Korean invasion tunnel to the South, but no one was injured in the blast, the Defence Ministry said.

"A mine exploded during a search operation, killing a sniffer dog, but no one was injured," a ministry spokesman said.

"We had removed several other mines and barriers apparently set up by North Korea to sabotage our operations."

The ministry, announcing Saturday the discovery of the

tunnel in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) separating two Koreas, said the North could send 30,000 soldiers and scores of armoured vehicles through the tunnel within an hour.

Defence Minister Lee Sang-hoon said he believed the tunnel, found 1.2 kilometres into South Korean territory, was probably one of about 20 built by North Korea across the border as secret routes for infiltration.

The two countries have been technically at war despite a 1953 truce ending the three-year Korean War.

Lee could not say when the tunnel, the fourth discovered from the North since 1974, was built.

"We will have to carry out a thorough investigation of the tunnel to establish when they built it but knee-deep water and various traps laid out by North Korea are hampering our operations," the ministry spokesman said.

South Korea has accused the North of amassing troops near the border and of putting finishing touches to plans for a surprise attack on its capital, Seoul, less than an hour's drive from the DMZ.

## Brandt urges cautious unification

**ERFURT, East Germany (AP)** — Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, who began a thaw in relations between the two Germanys 20 years ago in Erfurt, returned to say the German people are near the end of a long road to unification.

Brandt, honorary chairman of the Social Democratic Parties in both East and West Germany, waved to cheering crowds from an upstairs window of the Erfurt Hof Hotel, the same spot he appeared on March 19, 1970 after his historic meeting with then East German leader Willi Stoph.

"I'm very moved at this moment," he told the emotional crowds packing the square Saturday. "It's a long road we have behind us."

Now, he said, the final steps to unite the two Germanys must be taken in a "responsible, just and balanced manner, and to a good final result."

Brandt said he favoured rapid fusion of the ailing East German economy with its mighty Western neighbour, but stressed that the ensuing course to final, political unification must be slower.

A united Germany should work out a new constitution, based on West Germany's, but taking into account the interests of Germans in both East and West, he said.

West German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble has said he thought the new East German government elected March 18 could opt for swift unification via Article 23 of West Germany's constitution.

But that would immediately impose West German institutions and practices on East Germany, that is just emerging from over 40 years of Communist rule.

## Military takes over S. African homeland

**JOHANNESBURG (Agencies)** — Troops staged a bloodless coup in the nominally-independent homeland of Ciskei, which borders on South Africa's eastern Cape province, early Sunday, Radio Ciskei said.

Brigadier O.J. Gqozo said in the radio announcement that the army had decided to take over the government following repeated requests from the people of Ciskei, one of 10 black homelands created by South Africa under its apartheid policies.

Gqozo, commander of the 1st Ciskei Battalion, said three officers, including Lieutenant-General Kwame Sebe, the son of Ciskei President Lennox Sebe, had been arrested.

The president himself is abroad on a trade mission. Gqozo said several cabinet ministers had also been detained.

Gqozo said a full statement on the takeover would be issued later Sunday.

Earlier, South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha called for calm. He said South African police were monitoring the situation.

Ciskei has accepted independence from South Africa, but is not recognised internationally and remains heavily dependent on South African economic subsidies.

A tide of violence and protest has swept several of South Africa's homelands in recent weeks, with residents calling for reincorporation into South Africa in the wake of President F.W. de Klerk's reforms of apartheid.

South Africa has 10 tribal homelands.

## Protesters throw firebomb at Peruvian embassy sheltering Noriega's officers

**PANAMA CITY (AP)** — Protesters threw firebombs at the Peruvian embassy where two officers who were allied with former ruler Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega are still held up.

There were no injuries or serious damage in the incident U.S. soldiers and Panamanian police restored order.

The protest was organised by widows of Panamanian soldiers slain in the Oct. 3 attempt to topple Noriega. They are angered that Gonzalo Gonzalez and Heracles Sures, who are accused of killing coup leader Maj. Moises Giroldi, have been given refuge in the embassy.

Protesters also said they were concerned that the Panamanian government guaranteed safe passage Wednesday to Noriega's family and several other Noriega associates. Noriega's family left into exile Friday night.

Giroldi's widow Adela led about 70 protesters, including other widows and relatives of officers executed after surrendering during the insurrection against Noriega, who headed Panama's military until he was overthrown by the United States in the Dec.

20 invasion. The defence forces under Noriega had said 10 officers were killed in the coup attempt. A human rights official estimated the total number dead at 77.

Mrs. Giroldi said she doesn't know who threw the firebombs. "It was peaceful and that the incidents were provoked by unknown people," she said.

"The pressure that we have been applying is sufficient. It's a matter of being firm with the Peruvian government," she added.

After the embassy incident, the protesters met with Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and minister of justice and security. Arias Calderon guaranteed the widows that the government would not grant safe conduct to Gonzalez and Sures.

"I, along with the Foreign Minister (Julio Linares), are offering our apologies to the government of Peru," he said. "It was a sad incident. It violated international law. There were troublemakers, unknown people."

No Peruvian diplomats were available for comment.

In a separate development two men yelling "long live Noriega" threw a grenade into a discotheque frequented by U.S. soldiers and wounded 27 people, including 16 American military men, witnesses and officials said.

The Friday night bombing was believed to be the first such attack on U.S. servicemen since the United States invaded Panama on Dec. 20 and overthrew the government of Noriega. One of the Americans was reported seriously injured.

"I heard something come in that broke the glass, hit the table and then I heard the explosion," said Eric Quintero, one of the wounded. "There was a lot of confusion, people screaming.... people on the floor."

"There were people bleeding everywhere," he said. Witnesses said the grenade landed under a table, then exploded. It left a hole about half a metre in diameter in one of the disco's glass walls.

Lisa McKay, who was outside the discotheque when the 11:30 p.m. (local time) attack occurred, said two men drove up, one got out and threw the bomb and they

then sped away. The men yelled "there goes Noriega, long live Noriega" and threw the grenade," she said. Another woman who was going into the disco at the time gave the same account.

Panama's Judicial Technical Police, in charge of the investigation, gave no details, but an official said, "it was against the Gringos." He asked not to be identified.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, said Lt. Cmdr. Peggy Black, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Southern Command.

Lt. Col. Terry Jones said one of the Americans was seriously injured. Thirteen others were being treated at the U.S. military's Gorgas Hospital and two were treated and released, he said.

Three of the 11 wounded Panamanians had serious injuries and were in intensive care, a social security hospital report said. It said six Panamanians were treated and released.

Maj. Gen. Marc Cisternas, head of the Southern Command, appealed for help in finding those responsible.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## Sri Lankans stage march for peace

**KANDY (R)** — More than 1,000 people, dressed in white and led by drum-beating monks, marched through central Sri Lanka Sunday calling for peace on the war-ravaged island. An organiser of the march, A.T. Ariyaratne, said participants represented all of Sri Lanka's religions and ethnic groups and came from all parts of the country. "In these times of war, when people are tortured and killed at whim, the fear element is strong. We want to remove this fear psychosis," he said. The eight-day march began Saturday in the central town of Kandy and will end 95 kilometres away at Adam's Peak, a mountain that has religious significance for Buddhists, Hindus and Christians in Sri Lanka.

## Bangladesh house collapse kills 7

**DHAKA (AP)** — A mud house collapsed during heavy rain and killed seven members of a family, including a newborn baby, in the southern sea resort town of Cox's Bazaar, police said Sunday. Three other people were injured in the collapse which occurred Saturday on the outskirts of Cox's Bazaar, 296 kilometres southeast of Dhaka, police said. The police, contacted by telephone and speaking on condition they not be identified, said two days of heavy rains had disrupted life in Cox's Bazaar, famous for its sandy beaches on the Bay of Bengal. The victims, all members of one family, included the mother of the 11-day-old infant, police said.

## Elections postponed in Gabon

**LIBREVILLE, Gabon (AP)** — Legislators and ruling party leaders have postponed elections in this oil-rich one-party state of West Africa, and President Omar Bongo promised to step down if he does not win enough votes. The beleaguered president made the pledge in an interview with the independent French television 5 Saturday, ending a week in which he fired nine cabinet ministers in a bid to end protests and strikes that closed the capital's airport for three days, disrupted telephone and telex communications, and brought power cuts and gasoline shortages. Bongo said in the interview that he was unaware of protesters' demands that he surrender power.

## Noriega's wife 'feels safe' in Cuba

**HAVANA (R)** — The wife of ousted Panamanian military strongman General Manuel Noriega, who was allowed to leave Panama Friday with her three daughters and an infant grandson, has said she felt safe in Cuba. Felicidad Sieiro told Cuban television she felt "calm, safe and at home. I thank the Cuban people and President Fidel Castro for the welcome they have given me," she added. Sieiro was met by Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Miguel Bruguera when she arrived in Havana Friday night with her daughters Thais, Lorena and Sandra and a 6-month-old grandson. She did not outline her immediate plans.